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JOHN BULL

VOL XXV. No. 667. SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1919. TWOPENCE.

[*Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.*]

BRITISH MUSEUM

Edited by HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

OUR QUEEN AND THE SOLDIER

BY

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

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JOHN BULL

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Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Naught shall make us rue,
If Britain to itself do rest but true.

Vol. XXV. No. 667. **Week ending Saturday, March 15th, 1919.** **Twopence.**

"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL."

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

The Premier's Grief.

Speaking of the ruin and collapse of Russia, the Premier recently said: "And I am sorry that the same is true of Germany." Personally, our eyes are quite dry.

Two Voices.

President Wilson: "America has saved the world." Mr. Lloyd George: "Great Britain has saved the world once and she will save it again." Nothing like having two strings to your bow!

"The Opposition."

Isn't it about time that the farce of the present dual Opposition came to an end? To have Messrs. Maclean and Adamson bobbing up alternately upon every conceivable occasion neither adds to the dignity nor to the usefulness of debate.

Members' Seats.

And isn't it also time that the internal accommodation of the House was overhauled, every Member being allotted a seat and a desk in accordance with Continental and American custom? And, incidentally, a simple electric device should be attached to each desk, enabling Members to vote "Aye" or "No" without the necessity of tramping through the lobbies.

The Government and the Press.

The Government makes a special appeal to "those journals exercising influence upon public opinion" to support it in "whatever measures it may consider necessary for the settlement of Peace." We are afraid we cannot accede to this request, our view being that a People's War must be followed by a People's Peace.

Those Indemnities.

Signs are not lacking that the Government is already weakening on this subject; and we warn the Prime Minister that there will be considerable trouble, when the Peace Treaty comes before Parliament for ratification, if there is any departure from his solemn election pledge to "make Germany pay."

The Kaiser.

On the subject of the punishment of the Kaiser, too, it looks as though public opinion were being prepared for an official announcement that the sovereign of an enemy State cannot be held personally responsible for his actions—and this despite the definite assurances to the contrary of the present Lord Chancellor and other legal luminaries. Here again the Government is in for trouble if it attempts any "monkey tricks."

Courts-Martial.

As will be seen from another page, we have at last succeeded in getting an Inquiry into the whole system of courts-martial. It is rather late in the day—but we were not in the House during the war.

Armenia.

Surely the refusal of the Peace Conference to admit an Armenian delegate is an act of injustice towards a friendly race which has paid a big price for its loyalty to the Allies—having lost not far short of one-third of its total population.

"Winston."

Mr. Churchill has already made a great impression upon the new House. His exposition of the Army Estimates was a parliamentary masterpiece, and its effect was considerably enhanced by a complete absence of the nervous hesitation which marked his speeches in days gone by.

Eton and Ourselves.

One of the scholars informs us that this journal is prohibited throughout the College, "although," he adds, "your admirers have means of procuring their copies every week." We presume we are being boycotted on account of the genuine service we rendered the College a few years ago.

All British.

So the scheme for the League of Nations is not President Wilson's after all, but was drafted by the British delegates—those submitted by America, Italy and France being, in the words of President Wilson himself, "put on one side." Wilson stock is undoubtedly on the wane.

Coming Round.

It is apparent that the whole Press is rapidly "coming round." Thus, for instance, the *Bath and Wilts Chronicle*: "There is little doubt that Mr. Bottomley is one of the forces who will have to be reckoned with in the present Parliament." Evidently the day of "reckoning" has arrived.

A Time-Limit.

Numerous cases come before us in which allowances for children, under the new Pension Regulations, are refused on the ground that they have not been born "within nine months of the date of discharge"—even though the period has been exceeded by but a few days. It is really time that the Ministry of Pensions engaged an obstetric specialist.

Wilson's *Entourage*.

Here's an interesting extract from a letter from New York: "The Republican Party is furious that the only member of that Party allowed to go to Europe with President Wilson is a man whose daughter is married to a Prussian and has always been pro-German." We recently reproduced some of this gentleman's glorifications of the Hun.

Our Consular Service.

This is one of the matters we mean to take up at an early date. Amongst other duties we propose to place upon the British Consuls, is that of furnishing the Board of Trade with the names of all persons in their districts with whom it is undesirable that British merchants should have dealings. We believe German Consuls have long adopted this method.

The Official Mind.

A short time ago the well-known comedian "Pimple" held an auction at Wood Green for the benefit of discharged sailors and soldiers. Immediately afterwards the Customs and Excise Officer for the district set to work bombarding other artists for "Pimple's" real name and address, in order that he might be prosecuted for conducting an auction without a licence. Some of the replies to these inquiries are before us—and they make good reading!

Oh, for a Business—Foreign Office.

In the early days of the war, a prominent commercial man who, a short time before, had been one of our principal consuls, wrote to the Foreign Office making certain cateforical allegations regarding the smuggling of contraband from Monte Video to Germany, *via* Sweden. Calling at the War Office by request, one of the chief officials asked him what a Bill of Lading was—the fabrication of that commercial document being the method adopted by the wily pro-Germans! And Sweden again!

Bankers and Indemnities.

In our speech on the Address we warned the House against the presence on the Indemnities Commission of Lord Cunliffe, Governor of the Bank of England, and now we have one of his colleagues, Sir Charles Addis, telling us that "whilst Germany must suffer for her abominable crimes, it is idle to shut our eyes to the economic dilemma; there must be a prosperous Germany, or a crippled Germany and no indemnity." In other words, those Bills on Berlin held by the Bank of England must be paid.

The Odium of Ody.

W. G. Ody, of Wick Farm, Lydiard Tregoze, seems a retty fellow indeed. He was lucky enough to get off with a fine of £2 and 5s. costs for a brutal assault on Lily Wylie Mansfield, who was working for him. And this is not the first instance of his ruffianly conduct—only the other girls, who ran away without collecting their arrears of pay, could not be persuaded to prosecute. Ody may think this a cheap way of carrying on a farm, but we trust he will find it very dear in the end.

Treasury Counsel.

Apropos of our plea for a Public Defender, it should be made an inflexible rule that Treasury Counsel, who are regularly employed in criminal prosecutions, should not be eligible to take briefs for the defence. The interchange of roles between such criminal barristers as Messrs. Muir, Bodkin, Travers Humphreys and others, who are together one day for the Crown and opposed to each other the next, is—especially having regard to their intimate relations with the police—a crying scandal.

Grave Allegations.

In the course of a food prosecution at the Dudley Police Court, the defending solicitor handed up to the Bench the name of a local butcher who, he declared, had been allowed to compound an offence under the Food Orders by the payment of £100. It was no uncommon thing, alleged the lawyer, for officials of the Food Ministry to receive "hush-money" or bribes to "settle" offences of this kind. We should like to know what steps are to be taken to sift these allegations.

Advertise!

The Government, having proved how sweet are the uses of advertisement when it is a question of raising armies and war loans, seem strangely reluctant to adopt the same methods of publicity to assist them in the disposal of the vast bulk of military stores now no longer needed by the State. Judicious advertising would attract thousands of private purchasers of disused motor lorries, huts, etc., etc., at reasonable yet economic prices, and would protect the public against profiteering.

The Meat Scandal.

Here are two little items of interest to the consumer: The price the Government paid for meat was 10½d. a lb. for Argentine and 1s. 3d. for New York—whereupon the Trust sent the Argentine meat round to New York at a small extra cost for freight, and shipped it to England at 1s. 3d.! The other point is that the price for chilled beef was the same as that for Scotch, although the former, besides being much inferior in quality, contains a quantity of water which is, of course, lost in the cooking. Oh, for a Business Government!

Shovel His Bones Under the Stones!

A man named Davey, who died at the Bridgwater Workhouse, was buried in the Wembden Road Cemetery on top of several other bodies, and so casually was the grave dug that the coffin was only eight or ten inches below the ground. The brother complained, there was an inquiry, and the gravedigger has been dismissed. But what about the other people concerned? And is it so certain that the Guardians have been completely exonerated? We want to know if this sort of thing has happened before and may happen again. What orders were given to the gravedigger? Even a "pauper" is not a dog.

More Profiteering.

Apropos of the sewing-cotton ramp, a poor machinist working at home for her living tells us that she now has to pay 1s. 5d. for a reel of thread that before the war she could buy for 4½d. According to the label on the reel, this particular thread is manufactured in Belgium. It is possible, therefore, that the firm may have big losses to make good, but a fairer method would be to take it out of the Huns.

A German Beast.

A Hun prisoner who cannot keep his hands off our women ought to be shot as a lesson to the others. Yet we find that, at the last Derbyshire Assizes, Heinrich Wilhelm Klein, a German prisoner-of-war, pleading guilty to an indecent assault on a girl at Quarndon, was let off with the trifling sentence of three months' imprisonment. Our authorities seem bent on providing excuses for that German writer who declared that we British would "always be fools."

S.W. Africa Still "German."

It appears that the Huns are still having a high old time in British (late German) South West Africa. In Windhuk, and other centres of population, the German burgomaster remains "cock of the walk," while in the principal railway workshops British mechanics are expected to work under German charge-hands, and otherwise to play second fiddle to the conquered enemy. "Yet," as a Natal journal caustically observes, "according to the cables, the Allies have won the war."

A Blank Look-Out.

Those linen fabrics—to be sold by the Aircraft Production Department—which housewives cannot buy, seem almost equally forbidden to merchants, other than rag or scrap dealers. A form of tender before us states the quantity to be tendered for is (blank); the period for tendering is (blank); and the description of the goods for sale is also (blank). The Department says it cannot guarantee the correctness of the figures it does not give! What sane persons would buy under such conditions—except at rag-fair price?

The Potato Muddle.

How is it that, with hundreds of tons of potatoes rotting on a Downham (Norfolk) farm, one hears of potatoe *queues* outside greengrocery shops in Reading? One farmer alone has 300 tons for which salesmen who have dealt with him for years are clamouring, but the Food Control will give him no facilities for getting them away. The truth is, the specious spud has served a turn and tided over a time—it may now go to the pigs or to any other beast who is on the ground to enjoy it. In other words, what the Government take leave to remark is, "Potatoes be damned!"

"After a Rough Night."

We don't want to "crab" any demobilised soldier's efforts to earn an honest living, but we don't like the methods of Charles W. Huband. Trading as the Postal Advertising Co., from 120, New Bond Street, W., he offers by post the recipe for "a wonderfully good medicine," which he originally intended to put on the market at 5s. 6d. per bottle. He prefers, however, to sell copies of the prescription at 15s. a time. "It is a 'family' medicine, and has not the fault of most tonics—it does not bind . . . It is useful after a rough night." This may appeal to some sufferers from "family" complaints and "rough nights," but for our part we would as soon buy a pig in a poke.

"Caller Herrin'!"

It is a Scottish fish buyer who complains that Norwegians are dumping inferior herrings into Scotland and spoiling the fishing industry there. "No dumping!" was one of Mr. Lloyd George's battle-cries, and Scotland, which has supplied us splendidly with cheap fish, does right to protest.

Troubles of the "Temps."

Probably every Government Department employs temporary clerks, and probably every such body of "temps." has complained to us regarding salary or bonus, or both. But those of the Petrol Control Department seem to be suffering a real wrong, for they say their wages and *cetras* have been reduced by £1 13s. 6d. since the beginning of November. Yet the work is just as heavy and food prices just as high. The Department's treatment seems rank robbery.

A Matter of Necessity.

The Channel Islands have rejected the Out-of-Work Donations scheme, leaving ex-soldiers to the tender mercies of the Pensions Committee. It is the "Local Director of Demobilisation" who announces:—"Owing to the decision of the States of Deliberation not to issue Out-of-work Donation Policy Books, it is unnecessary for anyone to apply at this Office for such book, or to receive any allowances." That is very badly worded, for many Channel Island soldiers, existing on their little bit in hand, think it is by no means "unnecessary" to receive allowances.

In the Night Watch.

The s.s. *St. Katherine* was run into and sunk. We are informed that at the time, owing to an expected air-raid, her navigation and other lights were all extinguished. Yet when her crew wrote to the Shipping Master at Dock Street Shipping Office, London, and made a claim for the loss of their effects, as allowed by the Board of Trade, they were informed that the vessel was not lost under a War Risk. If this is not a war risk, what is? And may we ask under what policies the loss of the vessels was paid? Shipping officials should do more to help men who have lost their belongings.

Fishe—y.

C. W. Fishe, Warren Street, Islington, advertised bales of second-hand clothes for sale, suitable for working people, the bales, at £20 each, to be re-sold by dealers. A Northwich trader unfortunately sent the money, and at the end of a month received stuff described as "old rags." Indeed, his solicitor, when the case came before the County Court, bluntly said the transaction was a swindle. The Judge ordered the return of that £20, but it has never been recovered, Fishe declaring his inability to pay. Other second-hand clothes dealers, please note.

Black Diamonds.

Miners' delegates sitting at the momentous Hear-all-sides Conference will be interested in the balance sheet of Messrs. D. Davis and Sons, the South Wales Colliery Company, whose 1918 profits are admitted to be £269,500, as against £188,700 the previous year. Striking as it is, it does not show the whole of the gain, for this year the profits are for the first time arrived at after deductions for depreciation and reserve for Excess Profits tax. Coal getters and coal consumers have had it so long rubbed into them that the poor mineowners are hardly paying their way, that the brilliant achievements of Messrs. Davis and Sons, Ltd., in profit-getting deserve special note. They give us some idea why we are paying 45s. a ton for our coal.

"A Boy's Hard Fate."

We pleaded for at least a Compassionate Grant for the Boy Scout whose hand was amputated, following injuries while at play after signalling duties at Rottingdean. While not admitting any legal liability, the Admiralty has now listened to our appeal and awarded the lad the sum of £25, and this, after 18 months' delay, is being doled out to him by a local Pensions Committee at the rate of 10s. a week. Something is always better than nothing, but this youngster's hard lot is only very slightly eased by such a weekly trifle.

O.A.P. Again.

This is very hard. A Nailsworth man is 75, a labourer, earning 18s. a week. A toiler all his life, never has he been paid more than £1 in a week. The old hero supports a crippled daughter, who has had both legs amputated; he has to pay for help in cooking, cleaning, and so on, besides rent, food and clothing. But he is refused an Old Age Pension, or any part of one, because—oh, the irony of it!—they say he is earning too much! We should like to see the old fellow get his pension, and to see the girl get a cripple's pension also—so as not to part the splendid pair.

"Those P.O. Messengers."

In confirmation of our recent paragraph under the above heading, we have received a letter from a Boy Messenger who enlisted as early as September, 1914. Our correspondent, who has been drawing from the Post Office an allowance of 5s. weekly, made the uncomfortable discovery on demobilisation that those of his colleagues who remained behind until conscripted were not only promoted, but were granted an allowance of full pay, less army pay. "In many cases," he says, "this amounted to more than 30s. per week, six times more than the amount received by me." Again we ask, "What has the Postmaster-General to say?"

"Blood and Fire" and the Huns.

Many earnest Salvationists who are also patriotic Britons, have been pained and disgusted to read in the *War Cry* extracts from the Stockholm edition of that paper, in which references are made to the German *War Cry*, one of which mentions that "Major Stankuweit has again taken up his duties as Field Secretary," and another how "at Berlin there was recently held a Welcome Meeting for a great host of returned Comrades. All gave God thanks and praise for His goodness." For our part, we shall be ready to return thanks if the Editor of the *War Cry* will kindly refrain from referring to "our German comrades" until the Huns repent of their bestiality and show themselves worthy of being again included in the comity of civilised nations.

The Channel Islands.

Surely it is not necessary to continue the passport system for Jersey and the other Channel Islands. They have been absolutely without visitors during the war. Another blank season is likely to kill off the remaining boarding-house keepers, so the Island should be set free.

And Why Not?

This is the kind of letter that ought to move the compassion of the Salvage Department of the War Office:—"Has any more been said about soldiers' wives having the chance of buying surplus blankets? I have two boys who, under doctor's orders, are obliged to sleep in blankets during the whole of the year. My husband is in Egypt, but I live in hopes of seeing him when the army has finished with him." It should be easy to give good people a chance to buy good things when they are going at reasonable prices.

Our Free Fire Insurance Scheme.
18 CLAIMS ALREADY PAID.
For Registration Forms, see page 16.

Sheffield Steel.

The Clerk to the Hoylandswaine U.D.C., near Sheffield, advertises for a Rate Collector and Assistant Overseer, and when somebody applies, with the two requisite references, he is informed that the salary is as follows: Assistant Overseer and Collector of Poor Rates,—£10 per annum. District and Highway Rates Collector,—£8 per annum. And for preparing Voters' Lists what the Registration Officer allows. Best of all, the lucky man must give a bond of £100! You see, the Council doesn't mind how much they rob him so long as he can't rob them.

The Old Brigade.

Following our comments upon the circumstances of Private James Lee's death in Walton-on-Thames Workhouse, comes news of the recent demise of a Crimean veteran, Sergeant Robert M'Candlish, H.L.I. But for the interest latterly taken in him by the officers and members of the H.L.I. Association, he too would have ended his days as a pauper—in the Barnhill (Glasgow) Poorhouse Hospital, and his brave old bones would have been laid in a pauper's grave. Three weeks before his death, however, he was rescued from the doubtful kindness of the Guardians—who, until his release, had appropriated his preposterously meagre pension of 1s. 2d. a day "for his maintenance"—and was placed in a home that he was able to call his own, and whence his aged body went forth for burial, with all the military honours that were his due. Thank God, another veteran has been saved from the stigma of a pauper funeral.

The Jam Juggle.

Signs are not wanting that decontrol is resulting in a ramp between fruit growers, fruit dealers, and jam manufacturers to make contracts which can have no other effect than a rise instead of a fall in prices. During the war the general consumer has been fooled all the way—but he will assuredly look a bigger fool than he is, or be a bigger fool than he looks, if that is possible, if he allows the profiteers to fool him all the time.

Imprisoned Without Trial.

It seems that in the case of the two British ship's officers imprisoned without trial by the Spanish authorities at Bilbao, a painful story has had a happy ending, the wife of one of the prisoners having received a cable stating that he has been released and is on his way home to England. Naturally, it is a satisfaction to us to have had a share in bringing about this result, and before leaving the subject we desire once more to state that in our opinion the facts of the case, as disclosed in these columns, constitute a gross scandal, of which the British Foreign Office should take notice.

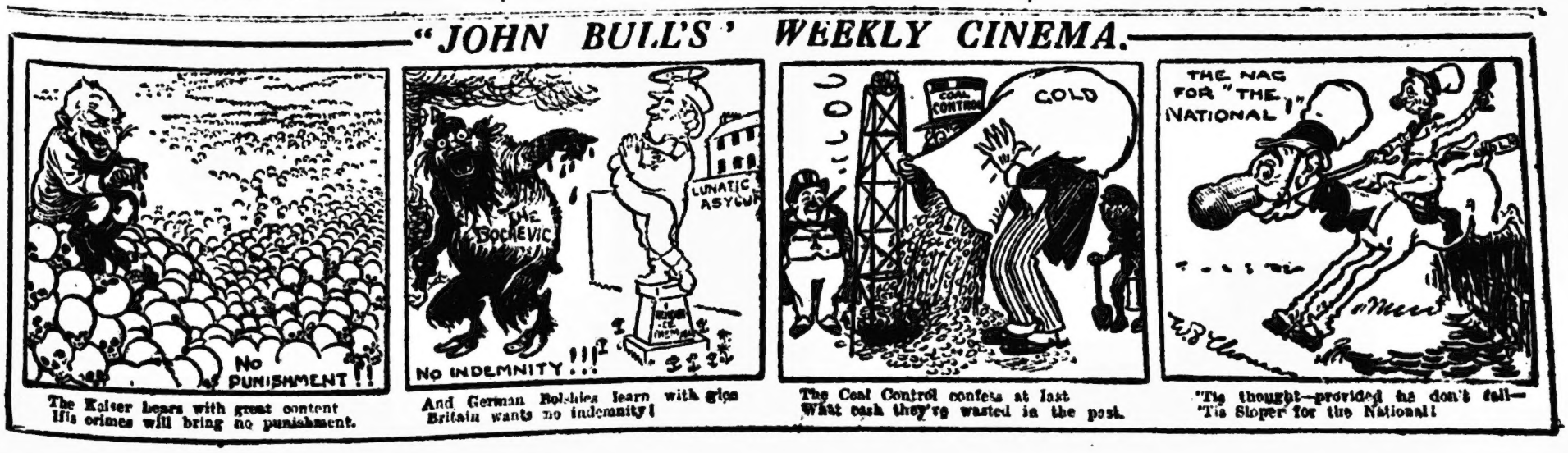
High Jinks at Malta.

The Turkish and German prisoners of war in Malta are having the time of their lives. Their *daily* ration of meat is 7 ozs. They can get a good wine at 11d., and whisky, Schweppes, port, soda water, ginger ale and so on, according. The Turks have real Turkish coffee, and water colours and singing birds and soft draperies and rich carpets and easy chairs. The Germans have a football ground and tennis courts, and they live in spick and span tents (Malta is very hot) set up on a flowery lawn. Then there are fine dining halls, billiard rooms, refreshment bars, reading-rooms. No wonder that Ibrahim Pasha and Echref Bey are waxing fat, and don't want to go back.

More Men Sent Home to Die.

We could go on giving instances of this for ever. Isn't the Government going to do anything? Here is a case of a draft of 900 men (mostly out of hospital) from Egypt. At each stage of the journey there were hours of standing about, sometimes in a rain-storm. On the boat from Port Said they were packed with big drafts of "leave" men in a space of not more than 90 ft. by 30 ft., and that for four days! From Taranto, wet through and with boots and legs soaked with ooze and mud, these sick men went in cattle-trucks (thirty or more per truck) for eight days through Italy and France. They went through the Alps, and they were wet and frozen all the way. Some bully stew at Faenza was the only hot meal they got on the trip! The rest was hard frozen bully and pork and beans.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.



The Kaiser leers with great content
His crimes will bring no punishment.

And German Bolshies learn with glee
Britain wants no indemnity!

The Coal Control confess at last
What cash they've wasted in the past.

'Tis thought—provided he don't fail—
'Tis Sloper for the National!

Candid Communications.

This space is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties and occasionally Nonentities.

To the Right Hon. E. Shortt, M.P., Home Secretary.

Sir,—I think you should use your influence with local authorities to prevent such episodes as that which lately occurred at Oban, where three police officers were dismissed from the force on their refusal to withdraw from the National Union of Police and Prison Officials. You may tell me that Oban is outside your direct jurisdiction, but I have had similar reports from places much nearer home, and even in London constables are far from satisfied. We do not want another police strike to add to our trouble. So please be careful.

John Bull.

To Major Astor, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Local Government Board.

My Dear Major,—I cordially agree with you that contaminated, or dirty, or tuberculous milk should not be allowed on sale at any time or at any price. Why should all the filthy milk pass by grading to the poorest, and therefore the least nourished, of the population, and all the cleanest, most wholesome, milk to the well-to-do, and therefore the best nourished? To parody a common phrase, a nation cannot rear Grade 1 babies on Grade 3 milk, and the nation which permits the experiment to benefit farmers is inflicting the most flagrant injury upon its rising generation. John Bull.

To the Director of Passports, Foreign Office.

Sir,—I know of a case in which, for no apparent reason, your Department has declined to issue a passport to a man who has secured an excellent appointment in Sumatra, with the result that through delay in sailing he stands in danger of losing the job. After four years' service in the Army, the good fellow is entitled to better treatment, and I tell you frankly that on hearing his account of your dealings with the matter I am more than disgusted with the whole business, and from my personal experience of your Department I am unable to understand it. John Bull.

To the Right Rev. J. W. Diggle, D.D., Bishop of Carlisle.

Dear Bishop,—You must have gone hot all over when you suddenly discovered that "no bishop's income to-day was worth more than half its nominal value." As your nominal stipend amounts only to £4,500 a year, it is clear that you must have been terribly hard hit, and I am wondering whether it is not my duty to start a little subscription on your behalf. Perhaps you will let me know how you stand at the end of the month. John Bull.

To the Right Hon. Sir Albert Stanley, M.P., President of the Board of Trade.

Dear Mr. President,—I am told that before the war certain German and Austrian firms made a regular practice of importing grey cloth from this country to be worked up into velvets and other superfine fabrics, which they afterwards exported in competition with goods of British production, sometimes dumping them in this country at ruinous prices. There is a very strong feeling in the trade that this is one of the things that must never happen again, but apparently the Government are unwilling to give a definite undertaking to this effect. Isn't it nearly time for a plainer understanding?

John Bull.

To T. Goaman, Esq., Chairman of School Managers, Bideford.

Sir,—From the character of the strike of schoolboys at Bideford, it may be regarded, I think, as a natural, if unusual, protest of the boys against being taught by a young man who dodged the Army under the hypocritical guise of a conscientious objector. On general principle, it is most objectionable that this individual should return to the school to set an example in cowardice, humbug, and evasion of paramount duty. If to save his skin a fit young man dodges the claims of his country in war, I can see no ethical reason why taxpayers and ratepayers should recognise his claims upon them in peace. John Bull.

To Arthur Lawes Dickinson, Esq., Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co., Chartered Accountants.

Dear Coal Accountant,—Before the Coal Commission you have just confessed that when the Coal Control put up the price half-a-crown they hadn't the remotest notion that the coal owners were wallowing in millions of profit. The consumer was "had" for £25,000,000 in the spirit of irresponsible fun, knowing he hadn't as much back-kick in him as a two-legged spider. 'Tis a lovely Control! John Bull.

To C. A. McCurdy, Esq., K.C., M.P.

My Dear Mac,—When I heard you had been appointed Chairman of the Beef Trust Inquiry it did not enter my mind that it was the deliberate intention of the Government to make the inquiry a combination of funk, farce and fiasco. What we all know is that the Committee has no adequate powers to do its job at all—no power to examine witnesses on oath, or compel the production of documents. If I were to judge by appearances, I should say the object of the Government is to prevent the conviction of the Food Control by saving the necks of the Beef Trust, which in America has been branded with falsifications, evasion, lying, duplicity, and trickery of all kinds.

John Bull.

To Lady Gordon Cathcart, Killochan Castle, N.B.

Madam,—Information reaches me that process for breach of interdict has been served on Angus and Alexander Campbell, two fishermen in South Lochboisdale, South Uist, for continuing in occupation of two sheds they have erected to house themselves and their families on the corner of a sheep farm of which you are the sole owner. Evict them, and they have no place to lay their heads or shelter their bones. Previously, as you may know, they were housed in a hovel—so overcrowded being the room occupied by Alexander Campbell, that five of his family had to sleep together in the same bed. Do you know of this outrage now proposed to be committed in your name? John Bull.

AN ARSENAL GRIEVANCE.

HUTMENT DWELLERS' SPIRITED PROTEST.

Is the State also among the housing profiteers? At any rate we notice that at a recent mass meeting of Woolwich Arsenal workers there were loud complaints from the hutment dwellers in the neighbourhood. Considering the nature of the accommodation, the rents of 9s. 6d. and 10s. a week charged for the huts certainly seems altogether excessive. After a brisk discussion, it was unanimously resolved that unless the Ministry of Munitions would reduce these rents by 5s. a week, a "no-rent strike" should be declared. This decision was considerably influenced by the speech of an Eltham delegate, who described the Woolwich hutments as "the worst in England," adding that "those on Salisbury Plain, in which 715 Canadian soldiers died, were three times better." Another complaint related to the condition of the roads. "In wet weather," declared one speaker, "they had to flounder through mud, and recently a woman fell in a hole and sustained such injury that a premature birth resulted in the death of a child." It seemed that the only reply of the Government so far to the complaint that the huts were cold and damp has been to allow a rebate of 2s. 6d. weekly for three months to meet the cost of extra coal—if only it could be got—during the worst of the winter season. Probably the truth of the matter is that the Government made a bad bargain with the contractors, the brunt of which they have transferred to the tenants. The matter is one closely affecting the interests not only of munition workers, but of a number of soldiers' widows and discharged service men resident in the locality.

WATER!

TROUBLE THROUGH A TRICKLING TAP.

Mrs. Fordham, of Fisher's Rents, Deptford, has formed a poor opinion of the brand of justice dispensed at Greenwich Police Court. And so have we. Mrs. Fordham's cottage is one of three, provided with one backyard in common, where are three water taps for the respective use of the three tenants. On January 31st one of Mrs. Fordham's neighbours, rising early, found that two of the taps were frozen, the only one running being Mrs. Fordham's. This, as is commonly done in such cases, he left running slowly, to prevent its freezing like the others. But about 8 o'clock an Inspector from the Water Company made a dramatic appearance, found the tap turned on, took copious notes, and departed swiftly to put the august machinery of the Law in motion against Mrs. Fordham, who, as it happened, was ignorant of all these tremendous transactions, not having left her bed. On February 21st, the shocking case came up for trial at Greenwich Police Court, with the result that Mrs. Fordham, in her absence through illness, was savagely fined 15s. and 21s. costs for permitting a tap to trickle. None of the several mitigating circumstances appears to have been taken into consideration by the Magistrate. It was apparently nothing to him that Mrs. Fordham was a poor woman with four children to bring up, or that she was not personally guilty of the trivial offence, which was actually committed by a neighbour in good faith. Decisions of this sort do not tend to lessen popular unrest; and Magistrates capable of giving them are not the best of friends to the general community in these troublous times.

SWEATING IN THE POST OFFICE.

A BOY LEARNER'S HEALTH BROKEN BY OVERTIME.

A boy named Roland P. White passed in 1915 the Civil Service Examination for male learners. He was first of all put in the Weybridge Post Office, and was transferred after three months to Chichester. His wage on appointment was six shillings a week. After about a year it was raised to ten. By this time he was really quite efficient. So the idea struck somebody that money could be saved by using him for extra duty and Sunday work. At first he felt very proud, as a boy would. But as the hours were piled on he began to feel ill. So he spoke to the Overseer, who arranges such matters. But no change was made. Some weeks the boy worked from four in the morning till nine at night—though he was only eighteen years of age. Finally the inevitable collapse came. In January, 1917, he had a haemorrhage from the right lung. So he went sick; and for three months he received two-thirds of his munificent wage. Then he got something else—viz.: a notification that, considering the state of his health, he would be of no further use to the Postmaster-General. Now, the boy had been passed as fit when he joined the service. Did he get a little temporary pension or gratuity? Not a penny! Yet the Post Office has broken him. He has been ill ever since and unable to work. The poor boy pleads modestly but piteously that the Government ought to help his parents to pay for his special food. But we say that those who are responsible for his condition should do very much more than that. Surely Mr. Illingworth will see that this kind of scandal ceases.

THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS.

ODD MAN PAYS!

RAISING THE WIND.

SCOTTISH LANDLORD'S IMPUDENT PROPOSAL.

Mr. John Auld Mactaggart, a Glasgow property owner, has hit upon a novel scheme for tiding over these troublesome times. He suggests that, as the price of keeping a roof over their heads, the tenants should lend him a bit of money. For the purpose of "raising the wind" at the tenants' expense, Mr. Mactaggart has joined hands with a Glasgow solicitor and a Greenock accountant in floating a scheme for 25-Year Terminable Annuity Bonds—and unless a tenant is willing to purchase one of these Bonds—or, in plain terms, to lend Mactaggart £225—he is given immediate notice to vacate his house at Whitsuntide. As an investment, the Bonds are about as rotten as they can be. By paying a deposit of £25, and the balance of £200 by May 15th next, the tenant will secure the right to an Annuity from the estate amounting to £12 per annum for the first five years, commencing at Whitsuntide 1920, £10 for the next ten years, and £8 10s. for the 10 years following. It appears, therefore, that by about 1945 the tenant will have received in these niggardly instalments the last of his money, and be free, if he so chooses, and unless in the meanwhile he has taken lodgings at the cemetery, to change his place of residence without financial loss. We note that Auld Mactaggart, or his solicitor, makes much of the fact that the purchaser of an Annuity Bond will receive back, spread over all these years, £245 as against the £225 paid down at the beginning; but a fairer way of stating the matter is that in the space of 25 years, the tenant will receive £20 interest on a loan of £225, or less than one-half per cent.! It is an excellent scheme for Auld Mactaggart, but the tenant who walks into it with his eyes open is a fit candidate for a lunatic asylum. Painful as it no doubt would have been to his sensitive feelings, Mactaggart would really have shown greater respect for the intelligence of his tenants if he had asked them for a bit more rent.

CRUEL OFFICIALISM.

AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE'S CALLOUSNESS.

An old man of 69 writes to us from Yorkshire—believing, as he says, that when we have heard his experience we shall be "disgusted with Government officials and their tyranny to the poor." Our readers shall judge how far this condemnation is justified. It seems that at the beginning of the war the poor old man owned about 16 acres of rough grass land, from which in one way and another he contrived to extract a living, being no longer capable of active work. Presently the War Agricultural Committee came along with the demand that nine acres of the land should be ploughed and sown; but instead of trying to make things easy for the harassed owner, they framed their requirements in the harshest possible way. Finding that the old chap was himself unable to undertake the ploughing, and was without the means of employing labour, they carried out the work themselves and sent him in a bill for £9. Having been robbed of a great part of his pasture, the unfortunate grazier was unable to meet this demand, so the Committee summoned him in the County Court, where they obtained judgment by default. Their next step was to take over the whole of the land and let it to a neighbouring farmer—not only the ploughed acres, but the remaining grass land as well—leaving the old man temporarily destitute and without the vestige of an understanding as to who was to receive the rent. Finally, the aged defendant has been ordered to pay the Committee £1 a month on a judgment summons, a charge which from his bankrupt resources he is quite unable to meet. If such treatment does not deserve the name of "official tyranny," we are at a loss to suggest an appropriate term. If it was in the public interest that part of this land should be brought under the plough, which in the light of expert opinion is more than doubtful, that purpose could surely have been attained without reducing a respectable old man to the verge of beggary.

THREEPENN'ORTH OF COAL.

HEARTLESS PROSECUTION BY L.C.C.

As was to be expected, a storm of protest reaches us from readers disgusted at the prosecution by the London County Council of an elderly schoolmaster who had served them faithfully for a quarter of a century. The unfortunate man, who would have been entitled to a pension three years hence, was stopped by an official when leaving the school at Battersea with a parcel, which was found to contain a little coal and wood. His excuse was that, unable to get fuel, he borrowed it from the school—fully intending to return it as soon as he could obtain a supply. The Magistrate, in binding him over in his own recognisances, said the value was not more than 3d. Heaven knows he had urgent need of that handful of cheer—he took it to warm a room where he had a child lying dangerously ill. That the L.C.C. should resort to the extreme step of giving into custody an old and tried servant, *without even first asking for an explanation*, is as incredible as it is cruel. Another striking example of the soullessness of Corporations.

"THE REASON WHY."

INFLUENZA MAY KILL ITS THOUSANDS, BUT—

An interesting circular reaches us from Huddersfield. It is a copy of correspondence between a local spirit merchant and the Advisory Committee of Customs and Excise. The spirit merchant's letter states:—"I have been supplying bottles of spirits for some time on the request of Doctor's Certificates for medical purposes. This has come as a great strain on my resources, and it has placed me in the position that I cannot fulfil my obligations to those who have a legitimate claim on me for their averages. I should be obliged if you could inform me if it is under consideration that the Commissioners will grant an equivalent for this unforeseen demand; if not, *I shall have no alternative but to refuse to supply on a Doctor's Certificate in future.*" The Advisory Committee "regret they are unable to issue to you an authority to obtain delivery of a larger quantity of spirits than that to which you are entitled under the regulations." The circular bears the title, "The Reason Why." So now you know.

AN ORDER OF THE DAY.

ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM AND OF BELGIUM.

Rather interesting, because provocative of curiosity, is a newly-hatched scheme labelling itself the Belgian Order of St. John of Jerusalem. It hastens to state it has no connection with the famous Order of St. John in England, though it claims among its patrons the Duke of Montrose, the Marquis of Salisbury, and a file of minor bishops. There is mention of a London Committee, but the promoter appears to be Dr. J. Smets-Mondez, with an address in Brabant, Belgium. His idea is that Belgians have "much to learn about practical matters of charity." So this new "Order" of his will teach them things by founding a British hospital in Belgium, and Britons are to show how to provide the funds. For £500 you, or anybody else, may become a Founder, and have your name and address on a marble slab outside the hospital—when built. £100 will make you a Patronising Member, with name on slab inside the hospital, when built. £20 will see your name, some day, at the head of a bed. If you start a town's subscription, and the money rolls in, the name of that town goes on the said marble slab, with your own under it. And, in that case, "we should be very glad to elect you as Commander, as we did for a Maharajah and a Bishop of South Africa." Before qualifying for a marble slab, we should desire to know much more about this new-fangled "Order" and its founders.

TOO MUCH WORLD POLITICS.

CHASING SHADOWS AND LOSING THE SUBSTANCE—THE "BREAD-AND-BEEF" POLICY.

By A. G. Hales.

WE are drifting in the wrong direction: we are nibbling at shadows instead of biting at the bone—and we have plenty of bones to bite at here in our own midst. In Paris and at home we see the same spirit at work: every big man and almost every small personage in public life wants to set the world right, instead of looking after the things that matter at home. The result will be chaos. Men are trying to achieve in a few crowded months what the centuries have failed to bring to pass—they cannot do it. Neither man nor microbe can be lifted suddenly from one level to another; the lifting process must be, as it always has been, the work of evolution—and nature sets the pace. Our politicians do not stand alone: the same madness seems to have got into the heads of all nations, and the result bids fair to be a greater state of muddle than existed before the war.

Hope Deferred.

A start might easily have been made when the Peace Conference met. All plain men considered that the plenipotentiaries came to dictate terms of peace to Germany. We sat down and waited, expecting day by day to hear that a crisp mandate stating the Allied terms had been delivered to our beaten foe. No such thing was done; days lengthened into weeks and weeks into months, whilst matters stretching all over the earth were discussed by the assembled statesmen, not always with the happiest results—whilst the real job, the swift settlement with Germany, was dragging on and is still dragging. Foch, Haig and Beatty, sitting at a round table, would have drafted and presented an ultimatum in a week that would have ended the suspense and put things on a sound basis one way or the other. Why the Allied delegates allowed themselves to be drawn right away from the job they had been specially sent to Paris to carry out passes my understanding; why they gave up the real for the unreal is an enigma I cannot solve. A man of dreams took hold of the lot of them and carried them off their feet, and they began to talk of ethereal ideals and the undying gratitude of unborn millions. That is noble stuff—but it won't wash clothes, nor pay the rent, nor foot the week's board bill. It was the millions who *are* born that the delegates should have been thinking about. Each generation has to live for itself the world over; our job as practical men is to make the best of things as they are, not to legislate for the unknown. Had the gentlemen at the Paris Conference borne this in mind, I imagine we should now be much nearer a complete state of things than we are.

Business First.

All the academic questions could have waited, and should have waited, until practical matters were finally settled; then, when the ship was running on an even keel, those splendid dreams could have been debated, thrashed out, and, if possible, agreed to, and the Millennium have begun—on paper. The same line of thought brings me in contact with the smaller kind of statesmen—they have the Paris complaint, in a lesser degree. In a phrase, "They don't mind their own business." Instead of looking right under their noses and seeing the many things that want remedying and should be remedied, they soar away into the unknown and fool about with things of which they know nothing—things that do not concern the men and women who elected them to sit in Parliament. Would there, could there, have been this appalling coal scandal if M.P.s had done their duty at home? Would the shameless ramp in fish, one of the staple foods of our poor, have gone on if parliamentarians had been gifted with common sense and common honesty?

The "Bread-and-Beef" Policy.

Why have the politicians taken to talking twaddle about Russian reforms and Belgian repatriation, and the "soul of the world"? The bellies of our own folk are more to me and to you than the souls and morals of mankind in general; a soldier marches on his belly, and a workman works on his—therefore let *our* M.P.s look after the bellies of our people, and let the philosophers attend to abstract matters. There are thousands of things which, viewed from an armchair, look perfect, but which will not bear the stern test of the street; all the beauty gets bumped out of them in the hurly-burly where men and women hustle for daily bread, knowing they *must* hustle or go home to a fireless hearth and a foodless cupboard. The kind of politics our world wants just now is the bread-and-beef kind. At present we are getting the other sort, and it does not pay. Our coal trade overseas is slipping away from us because profiteers have wanted to get rich quick; our cotton goods trade is vanishing because two of our loving Allies are grabbing our former markets whilst our own operatives are kept idle for want of raw material. And our "world politicians" are chasing about seeing to the supplies of raw materials for Germany and other delectable spots on the planet! Many other industries are suffering from the same cause. The old John Bull type of statesman may have been an insular, narrow-minded kind of person, as his detractors assert, but he looked at home, and legislated for home, and I think he was a better type for a practical, hard-headed world than this new school, who only dream dreams.

IN THE HOUSE.

THE EDITOR'S WEEK'S WORK IN PARLIAMENT.

I am very pleased to be able to record that, as a result of my intervention in the debate on the Army Estimates, the Government has promised a Committee to inquire into the whole system of courts-martial. It will be remembered that, following our "Shot at Dawn" revelations a few months ago, I secured a promise that the existing Regulations should be thoroughly reviewed, but apparently nothing was done until my return to the House enabled me to pin down the War Office. Mr. Churchill certainly lent me a sympathetic ear, and I am extremely hopeful that the outcome of the pending Inquiry will be that an accused soldier will have at least equal rights with an ordinary civilian in regard to opportunities for the preparation of his defence, the placing of his case before the Court, and, above all things, the right of appeal. One of the illustrations I gave the House made a deep impression upon the Members present. It was that of a young soldier who joined the forces in 1914 but was later invalided out. Having undergone surgical treatment, he was then allowed to rejoin. In due course, after fighting in more than one theatre of war, he was recommended for a commission, but was suddenly put under arrest for disobedience to orders. At the preliminary Inquiry, conducted by superior officers, no legal aid was permitted him. Not until the day before the court-martial was he told that a "friend" had been appointed, and that he could have an interview with him—but an interview of only half an hour's duration. The soldier then found that his charge had been altered to one of cowardice in the face of the enemy, and he was sentenced to death, with no recommendation to mercy. Later on, Sir Douglas Haig reduced the sentence to ten years' imprisonment—and then again it was altered to two years; now the sentence of two years has been "suspended." The young fellow had no chance of appeal, no legal aid, and no warning. This sort of scandal must cease.

I also pleaded for the abolition of the system of police reports in cases of critical illness of relatives of fighting men, as one of the conditions of obtaining special leave. The present rule involves considerable delay and is quite unnecessary—altogether apart from the indignity of wives and mothers being subjected to police inquiries. Surely the certificate of the doctor should be sufficient. I am hopeful that this offensive regulation will also be abolished.

By the way, I have omitted to mention that one of the first things I did in the House was to call attention to the report of the Privy Council recommending the removal of the names of the Dukes of Albany and Cumberland from the Roll of the British Peerage, and to cause it to be laid upon the table of the House, in order that, in accordance with the provisions of the Titles Deprivations Act, the removal becomes effective at the expiration of forty days; this period will expire on March 24th.

During the week I made a bold attempt to call attention to President Wilson's remarkable speech at Boston—one of the questions I put on the paper being to ask the Prime Minister "whether the attention of the Government had been called to the speech recently delivered by Mr. Wilson in Boston in which he is reported to have stated that, until the advent of America in the war, the Allied Armies were inspired by no high ideals and were fighting with lowered heads, and that it was not until they heard the accents of America's ideals that they lifted their heads and raised their eyes to Heaven; that the American soldiers came across the sea in the spirit of Crusaders, possessed of something that could only be called religious fervour, and that in this respect they were not like any of the other soldiers; that they had a vision and were fighting in a dream, and fighting in a dream they turned the whole tide of battle and it never came back; and whether in view of the injury to the prestige of the armies of the Allies and their delegates at the Peace Conference which these statements are calculated to cause, the Government would make enquiry of Mr. Wilson by cable before he left America whether his speech had been correctly reported." As I anticipated, however, the Speaker ruled that the House of Commons had no control over the utterances of the President in his own country, and several other efforts I made to get the question put in modified form were equally unsuccessful. The resources of civilisation, however, are not exhausted, and I shall be greatly surprised if at an early date I do not find an opportunity of taking the sense of the House upon Mr. Wilson's remarkable outburst.

Certain information has reached me as to grave scandals which were revealed during the recent sitting of the Transport Commission, and I am pressing for a publication of the proceedings—which so far has been withheld.

Whilst I am not without hope that the Coal Commission may result in averting the threatened strike, I propose directing the attention of the authorities to the importance of organising, before it is too late, a system of food and coal distribution throughout the country, on the assumption that the railways will not be available.

In view of the revelations of profiteering on the part of the Government itself in regard to both food and coal, I am proposing to press the Chancellor of the Exchequer to disclose the total profit made by the State since the establishment of control of these commodities.

STILL WATCH 'EM!

'WARE TRANSACTIONS WITH HAWLEY & WOOLFSON.

Through an error on the part of our Publishers' Advertisement Department, in a small portion of our last issue an announcement by these firms was inserted. Immediately this came to our knowledge the printing machines were stopped and it was removed, Mr. Hawley's cheque being returned in full by next post. We have received many complaints regarding these people and withdraw no word of criticism. By the way, the correspondent whose grievance we originally ventilated informs us that, thanks to our exposure, he has now obtained the return of his watch, but it is still in bad order, and will have to be placed in the hands of more reliable people.

A SISTER OF "MERCY."

LIGHT FINGERS AND HEAVY HANDS.

The Prescot Board of Guardians has been discussing with some heat the alleged ill-treatment of a 14-year-old boy, Thomas Donnelly, by a sister in St. Vincent's School, Fulwood. The lad, who had been sent out shopping, was observed to put a blotting-pad under his jerse y Although he stated he had intended to pay for the pad, he not unnaturally fell under suspicion, and the shopman accordingly sent word to the school Superior, who handed the boy over to the tender mercies of Sister Agnes, who, taking him into a small room—but let us quote the evidence laid before the Guardians. "Donnelly was found to be suffering from bruises on his buttocks, thigh, and hands. . . . Those marks could not have been inflicted with a cane. He was in an awful state, and if he was hit with a crowbar he could not have been in a worse state than he was." We will leave the matter there for the time being, as a motion to lay the case before the Local Government Board was unanimously carried. Meanwhile, Sister Agnes occupies a place in the sun, so to speak. Certainly she should not occupy one in St. Vincent's.

TRAPPED AND TRICKED.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT'S IDEA OF HONOUR.

During the war Mr. F. Steward, a solicitor of some years' standing, with a practice at Westcliff, offered his services to the Board of Inland Revenue in the belief that as an officer of that Department he would be more usefully employed. At the first introduction he was received with open arms at Somerset House. As a qualified solicitor he was informed that there would be no need for him to sit for the usual competitive examinations, a temporary appointment as Third Class Surveyor of Taxes being immediately placed at his disposal, with the clear understanding that on receipt of formal authority from the Civil Service Commissioners he would be placed on the "establishment" as a regular Civil Servant. But no sooner had Mr. Steward parted with his practice at Westcliff and taken up his new duties than pressure was brought to bear upon him to sit for the examination from which he was to be specially exempted, and on his failure to pass this artificial test in the short time at his disposal, he was asked to send in his resignation. On his refusal to oblige his superiors in this way, he was given a month's notice to vacate his office, although the fiction of "resignation" was kept up, and in the monthly Departmental Circular it was falsely stated that he had resigned his position. Having burned his boats by the sacrifice of his legal practice, Mr. Steward was thus placed in a most unfortunate position, and it appears to us that in his demand for reinstatement he has an exceptionally strong case. It seems that, prior to his dismissal, Mr. Steward had been formally placed on the establishment as promised at Somerset House, in which event the action of the Inland Revenue authorities seems utterly indefensible.

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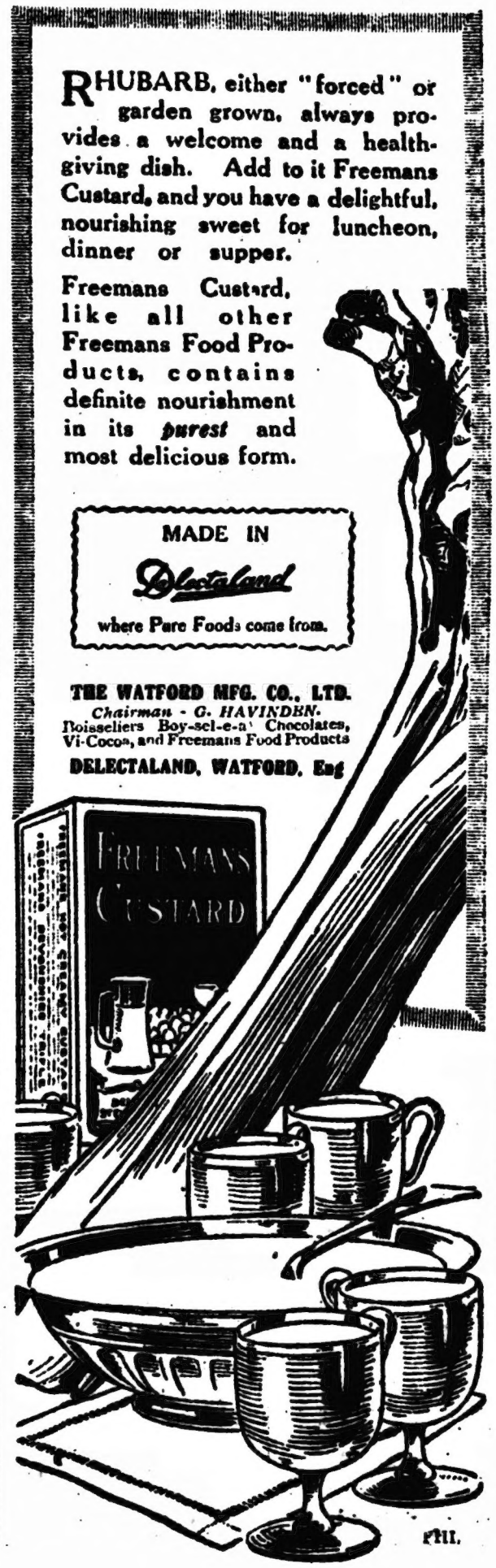
DELECTALAND, WATFORD, Eng



IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE.

Good evenin', sir . . . Come right in. Wot are you 'esitatin' there for? Scared about anythink? . . . Eh? *Are there any spirits about?* Spirits? Wot next? This is a barber's shop, not a pub. "Spirits about!" I on'y wish there was. I 'aven't 'ad a decent drop o' Scotch since —— . . . Oh, you *don't mean alco'ol.* Then wot *do* you mean? . . . Eh? *Ghostly visitations?* 'Ere, *come*, now! Wot's the idea? Tryin' to scare me? Or 'ave you got bats in yore belfry? . . . Wot, you *thought I looked like a meejium?* 'Ere, I don't want none o' yore insults, sir, 'oever you are. I'm a respectable tradesman, I am. I'd as soon be a monkey as a meejium, take it from me. . . . Now, wot on earth did jew jump an' look round like thet for? Did somethink bite you? If so, you brought it with yer. 'Ere, you'll git on me nerves in a minnit. If you wants anythink done in my line, set down an' let me git on with it. . . . *'Air cut?* Very good. Jest shove yore arms through the sleeves. Thet's it. . . I'raps you've 'ad a bit of shell-shock, sir? . . . *No?* Well, yore nerves are in a rum state for a fine strappin' man like you. Wot's the cause of it? . . . Oh, you *merely realise the presence of the Unseen?* Thet's easy, w'en you stub yore toe against the bedpost in the dark. . . *'Oo's* frivolous? First you calls me a meejium, an' then you're rude enough to call me frivolous. Wish I 'ad the charnce! Opperchunity's a great thing. . . 'Er, now I comes to 'ave a good look at yer, you don't 'appen to be Sir Conan Doyle, do yer? . . . Well, there! I thought so. Good ole Sherlock 'Omes! Wot a pity it is you've bin spoilin' yerself lately, writin' orl them ridic'lous letters to the papers about spiritualistic manifestations as you call 'em. Childish—thet's the word for it. If spirits carn't do nothink better then chuck articles about, I wouldn't lower meself to 'ave nothink to do with 'em. I tell yer wot it is, sir—you're spoilin' yer reputation. You 'ad a big followin' w'en you was writin' yore detective tales, an' "Rodney Stone" an' other 'ealthy stories like thet. Everybody looked on you as bein' a pertickler sane sorter chap, a first-clarss patriot, an' so on. But now you've bin an' took up with Spiritualism they don't know wot to think of you. Chuck it, mister—thet's my advice. Bring pore ole Sherlock back to life again in the magazines, an' you'll be doin' more good then messin' about with meejiums an' twiddlin' tables, an' cetra . . . Yes, I'm a unbeliever—in *thet* trash . . Goo' day, sir.

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

In Cellar Cool.

In cellar cool alone I sit,
  Upon a barrel resting,
While customers above me shout,
  Stout, ale, or beer requesting;
They call for "four" or "six" or "eight,"
  All eager to be guzzling,—
But here I sit and let them wait—
  The gravity's so puzzling.

Oh, for the days of old, when beer
  Was easier a-selling!
I hear them call me "Profiteer!"
  Above their other yelling;
But still I sit upon my cask,
  A shivering with the rigors,
And vainly struggle with my task
  Of working out the figures!

W. M.

"The Hidden Hand" film can be seen this week at Manchester, Electric Theatre, Whitworth Street; Maybole, Garrick Cinema; Lerwick, Electric Theatre; Shotts, Pavilion Cinema—and next week at Warrington, Picture House; Warrington, Queen's Cinema; Blackheath, The Pavilion; Burton-on-Trent, Picturedrome; Annbank, League Hall.

MY FIRST TRIUM

The Queen and the Soldier—No More "Shot a

By THE ED

WHEN, a year ago, we startled the public mind by our revelations—under the title of "Shot at Dawn"—as to the criminal and cynical carelessness with which Courts-Martial are conducted, I pledged myself that the moment the opportunity came to me in Parliament I would compel the authorities to remove the abominable scandal by which many a valuable and valiant young life has been sacrificed—sometimes for trivial offences and often without fair trial. And my opportunity came on the Army Vote last week. I recalled the memory of the House to that case, and I need not add that it once more touched all who heard it.

Tragedy of "Shot at Dawn."

Let me touch the chief points of that case, because it is the one which so impressed me with its pathos and its tragedy that I made my resolution to secure an alteration in the law with the least possible delay. At the time of my revelations I was not in the House of Commons, and it was the able and sympathetic Mr. Pringle who took up the matter for me. Here was a young officer, who left the merchant service to join the Royal Naval Division, suddenly confronted with a charge of desertion in the face of the enemy—a charge based upon the evidence of Lieut. Herring, whom the lad described in one of those touching letters to his mother "as my one and only enemy." It was on Boxing Day, after the preliminary proceedings, when he had no means of defending himself, that he was put upon trial for his life. And it was not until a short time before he stood up in the court that the so-called "prisoner's friend" saw him, under arrest, and obtained as coherent an account as possible of the circumstances which led to the dread charge being preferred. I have written "the 'so-called prisoner's friend'" because in effect defence under such conditions is a travesty. I have seen that particular Prisoner's Friend, and have had from his own lips an account of what happened at the trial. A certain honourable and gallant member took it upon himself to question my statement that the President of the Court peremptorily told this officer—a Canadian barrister, by the way—to "Take your hand out of your pocket, sir!" It was the barrister himself who told me of the incident.

The "Prisoner's Friend."

But that Prisoner's Friend told me something more, viz., that it was while he was cross-examining the man Herring—"the one and only enemy"—and it was just at the time when he was embarrassing the lying witness, that the President disconcerted him with that peremptory command. Now, perhaps, it will be understood why in the House the other day I urged that the prisoner's defender should be of equal rank with the President and therefore immune from either bullying or browbeating. That Prisoner's Friend told me something more still: that after that poor lad had been shot at dawn he heard a lot about the character and record of Herring of which he was wholly ignorant when he cross-examined him. What chance had the accused lad of a fair trial when his counsel, "instructed" on the eve of the Court-Martial, until then knew nothing of the case and nothing of the type of man whose evidence sent the gallant lad to a coward's grave? But how little a coward he was his last moments bravely testified. I cannot but recall with a pang that final letter home, written within a few minutes of being told, for the first time, that he would be taken out and shot at break of day! It was a letter so simple and manly in its language, so gentle and human in its spirit, that none but a stalwart soul could have penned it. That fact was confirmed by a gracious and kindly message from the Padre to the distracted mother, who, let me say, will never rest until the stain on the honour of her dear son is removed. And remember that under the Regulations, now happily modified, this boy for days was kept in ignorance of his fate; he did not even know the verdict of the Court; he had no means in the interval of appealing to those whom he loved for succour and comfort; only the night before his execution he was told to be ready for death on the morrow, and in the cold grey of dawn he was stood against a wall and died, as one who saw him die testifies, "like a pukka white man." I say it is a cruel and damnable system that can do to death the youth of this country of ours in the circumstances, and after such a travesty of a trial as I have described. I have never made any charge of want of humanity against the officers composing these Courts. But I say the system is an insult to the Englishman's idea of a fair trial; that under it gross abuses and grave miscarriages of justice are possible, *and do occur*, and that it must be changed to meet the demands of public opinion and the claims of our citizen soldiers.

The Queen and the Soldier.

"Shot at Dawn," it is not too much to say, sent a tremor of mingled pity and horror throughout the country. Last year it secured one reform—a man is no longer sent to his death with only a few hours in which to settle his affairs and make his peace with God. When I urged the inhumanity of keeping the lad—this scion of a family of hard-fighting men—in ignorance of his fate until the night preceding daybreak and death, I was told in all sincerity by the highest of War Office officials that it was considered more merciful to take him by surprise! Well, that at least has been altered, but still there is no chance of appeal, and, what is more, the unhappy prisoner is shut off from the world and his friends from the time of his sentence as though he was already dead. The other case which I quoted in the House last week, and so secured the immediate attention and sympathetic answer of the Secretary for War, shows how difficult it is for the accused to communicate with the outside world. Fortunately the prisoner's sister, to whom he smuggled information, found means of communicating with the Queen. Where men fail, gracious womanhood often finds a way, and it is something to know that the soldier's sister and Her Majesty were in some way leagued in this mission of mercy and justice. For that it was justice as well as mercy is plain from the facts of the case. The story is told, with a simple truth which cannot be improved upon, in a statement which comes to me through the soldier's wife, who asks that for the sake of "the little child and herself" I will do my best to secure justice for the husband whom she has not seen for nearly four years.

The Victim's Statement.

It is dated February 19th, and comes from Pte. F. R. Covell—late Sergeant—of the "B" Coy., 2/4th Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt.

> I am addressing this appeal to you, trusting that under these circumstances you will pardon the liberty I am taking. I was sentenced to death for a crime I never committed; but here are the facts of the case, and what I have gone through, so that you will be able to judge for yourself. At 4 a.m. on August 1st, 1918, the remains of our battalion (about 250 all told) were ordered to take a certain position (which we had failed to take a few days before); if successful the French would relieve us and we should come out for a rest. The attack was successful, the French relieved us, and we retired some 100 yards back and laid in three lines as reserve. About 4.30 p.m. the same day, for some reason or other the first two lines had to go forward and form a first and second line, thus leaving the third line—my line—where it was. One hour and a half later, Lieut. Galbraith (senior officer left in the field) gave an order to the third line to move forward through the cornfield in front of us. On coming out of the cornfield we were met with a murderous machine-gun and ground shrapnel fire—we were still in rear of our front line. Naturally the line broke and the men took cover. The fire died down, and Lieut. Galbraith ordered me to collect the men. I collected five (one corporal and four men). These, including myself, were placed in a small shell-hole by this officer, who said "he would place us in a position after dark." He remained with us. However, a short time later the enemy sent over a heavy barrage of shell and machine-gun fire. The officer at once ordered the shell-hole to be manned and a sentry to be posted; this was done in his presence. He then left, without giving any other orders. Neither I, nor any of my party, saw him until the following day. As no one visited me during the

PH FOR TOMMY.

Dawn" Scandals—Justice for Tommy at Last.

ror.

night I took one man and went to the second line early next morning (August 2nd). I sent the man back to fetch the remainder of the party, and then placed them in the second line. The French then pushed forward out of our sight. The battalion was reorganised; as senior N.C.O. left of my company, I acted as Company-Sergeant-Major. Lieut. Galbraith then sent for me (and this was our first meeting since the night before) and asked me to render a return of casualties and men who had done well in the attack. This I did. I then took charge of the second line and advanced them 150 yards, in case of emergencies. We came out of action altogether on August 3rd (Lieut. Galbraith was then placed in command of my Company). I continued to act as C.S.-M. until August 8th, when Lieut. Galbraith said he would have to charge me with "disobeying an order in the line on August 1st." Such was my surprise that one could have knocked me down with a feather. On asking what the order was, he replied, "When we were in that shell-hole I gave you an order to *advance and follow me.*" I disputed this, but to no effect, and was charged before him (Lieut. Galbraith), and the same day before our C.O. (Lt.-Col. Hill, D.S.O.), with "Disobeying an Order given by an Officer; i.e., failing to advance when ordered to do so." I had the Corporal as witness for me, but was remanded for a Field General Court-Martial. On August 9th the Summary of Evidence was taken. The charge and evidence were the same, except that Lieut. Galbraith added I attempted to apologise the *following morning* for my conduct.

The "Prisoner's Friend" Again.

Then, although I asked for a "prisoner's friend" on August 9th, I never saw him until August 28th (the Court-Martial sat on the 29th), and then he could only spare me half an hour, as the battalion was moving into the line the same day. When a copy of the Summary of Evidence and Charge Sheet was handed to me on August 28th, I found that my charge had been altered to "*cowardice*"—i.e., "acting in such a manner as to show cowardice, in that he, in the field on August 1st, when ordered by Lieut. Galbraith to follow him over the crest, remained behind and did not follow his officer." I appealed against this, but was firmly told that it was quite in order. (Is it quite in order?) At the Court-Martial I had the Corporal and two men (the other two men were in hospital) as witnesses for me, and only Lieut. Galbraith against me. Although he stated in his evidence that I attempted to apologise in the vicinity of the Company, he could not bring forward a witness to support his statements. On this one-man evidence I was found guilty and sentenced to death *without* a recommendation to mercy! I was then placed in a cell in a Field Punishment Compound, near St. Omer, like a criminal, and only allowed to write once a week without referring to my Court-Martial or sentence. By means unknown to the Compound Authorities I communicated with my sister in London, who at once petitioned the Queen on the death sentence. After 15 days in the cell my sentence was reduced to 10 years' penal servitude, and I landed in No. 7 Military Prison. Not satisfied with this, my sister (who had now all the facts at hand) still pressed her efforts, and my sentence was reduced to two years' hard labour. And this was my reward for three and a quarter years' active service with a clean sheet, and without sight of home, wife or baby! My sister, who was still fighting for me, took a bold step, when all else failed, in writing to our beloved Commander-in-Chief and placing all the facts before him. He at once released me from prison—but not cleared, only on a suspended sentence on account of my previous good service—good enough to release me from prison, yet the same was not even good enough to induce the Court (if I had committed the crime) to recommend me to mercy. Why? I ask. On rejoining my unit I am informed that, owing to my suspended sentence, they cannot demobilise me or give me a leave, neither do I get the extra 10s. 6d. for troops in Germany. So you see how this has cost me a lot all round. It was while waiting for the return of my Commission papers from the War Office that this outrageous miscarriage of justice took place. I cannot rest until justice is mine; for although I am a free man, my *honour* has been taken away from me, and cowardice will for evermore be upon my head. What is a man's life when he has lost his honour? I am confident that I shall receive justice through you.

Now let us look at the career of this man. I find that he enlisted in the Territorial Forces in 1913, and offered himself for active service in 1914, but was found unfit; he voluntarily underwent an operation and again presented himself for active service with a Composite Battalion in February, 1915. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal in March, 1915, and landed at Gallipoli on August 8th of that year, evacuating on December 13th following. He was again promoted, being made Sergeant in March, 1916, and served on the Egyptian front till August 6th, 1916. He marched across the Sinai Peninsula and was present at the two attacks on Gaza in March and April, 1917, also in the Fall of Beersheba and the advance past Jerusalem, until March, 1918. He then went to the Jordan Valley and took part in the big raid on Anna, and in two minor "stunts" in front of Jerusalem. Arriving in France in June, 1918, he was recommended for a commission by his Company Commander, the papers being signed by the Battalion and Brigade Commanders. Such was the case I brought before the House. It created a profound impression upon the minds of the Members present, who immediately supported my appeal to Mr. Churchill to appoint a Special Committee to inquire into the whole system and into the necessity of revising the King's Regulations which govern it. Of course there was the usual official denial from the orthodox old type of officer-member, who had "sat on many Courts-Martial and had never known of any case of hardship or injustice." But, on the other hand, I was supported by a number of younger officers, including Major Lowther (the son of the Speaker), Major Hurst, and others, with the result that when Mr. Churchill came to reply, he announced the intention of the Government to grant the Committee for which I had pleaded.

Justice and Humanity.

What, I ask, can be the character of the disciplinary value of a Court-Martial which results in a death sentence upon evidence so doubtful in character that there is first—as in this case—a commutation to ten years' penal servitude, and then, after a brief spell in a military prison, release, but with a "suspended sentence" still hanging over the accused? In this case, from the moment the man was put under arrest, he was not allowed to write or receive letters. Fine chance in such circumstances of securing legal aid to ensure justice! But when the worst happens, and all is over save the bitter tears of a broken-hearted woman, there is no means of removing the stigma from the memory of the dead. That lad "shot at dawn" was no coward; his parents have moved heaven and earth to secure a copy of the minutes of the Court-Martial. But as Mr. Ian Macpherson, then Under Secretary for War, said, with, I am sure, unintentional irony, the evidence could not be produced without the consent of the accused! Poor accused, already in his unmerited grave! Why all this secrecy? These Courts-Martial are said to be open; they are generally secret, and how secret anyone who desires to see a report of the proceedings will discover. What the soldier demands is justice, fair and open. And in my opinion we shall never have a contented Army until the whole system of trials and punishments has been changed. And I know that my friend Mr. Churchill is the man to do it. Men to-day are "crimed" for the most trival offence. Discipline, essential in a fighting force, has been made a fetish. Not only can no man call his soul his own—he can hardly dare to breathe for fear of being pounced upon by some martinet above him, and "crimed." During the last year I have read hundreds of letters from Tommies at home and abroad giving cases of petty tyranny, trumped up charges, and unfair sentences which create disaffection and induce loathing for the Army. I am writing this not to disparage the service of arms, but to secure such reforms as will make that service not only honourable but popular. The War Secretary is budgeting for a big army. He will get it all the easier, and the new soldier will be all the happier, if antiquated King's Regulations are forgotten and a system is devised which, while it preserves discipline, does not deny justice, and in making a man a soldier does not fail to treat him as a man.

In giving publicity to the views of correspondents, preference will be accorded to brief letters bearing name and address for publication.

All envelopes must be marked "People's Pulpit."

THE PEOPLE'S PULPIT.

The readers of "JOHN BULL" discuss matters of Public Interest.

These letters, selected from our weekly mail, are confined to questions of general interest.

More personal matters are dealt with in our "Letter Bag" page.

The Mind of a Miner.

"To my mind the Triple Alliance—the miners, railway men and transport workers—are considering no one else but themselves. I am a colliery worker. If only the miners would think of all the suffering and distress they will cause their fellow-workmen all up and down the country, they would not be so ready to strike. To all my fellow workmen to-day I say, for God's sake have done with all these long-haired gentry, the agitators, who are for ever going up and down the country trying to stir up strife amongst you. I believe in Trade Unions; I have been a member all my life; but I cannot and will not be a party to such an action as the miners are taking at the present time.—W. CLARK, Clayton Buildings, Castleford, Yorks.

(*We are very hopeful that the outcome of the Commission now sitting will be an agreement between the Government and the miners which will obviate the danger of a strike.*—ED.)

Restriction of Imports.

From the national standpoint it does not seem good business to prohibit either raw material or manufactured goods at the present time, but to first prohibit them and then allow them in by licence is bound to lead to very questionable practices. If we refuse to buy the goods manufactured abroad, the manufacturers will find a market themselves, usually a market once supplied by us. It is surely good business for England to be the factor and get the factor's profit rather than remain in the position of being unable even to supply her own manufactures.—H. BLACKHAM Burlington Road, Blackpool.

(*Our correspondent will be glad to know that the Government is about to remove all restrictions upon Empire imports and upon raw materials from all parts of the world.*—ED.)

Tax the Pumpuritans?

It would be fairer to put a duty or tax upon water, instead of pressing the whole burden upon the shoulders of those who, unable to stock their cellars with expensive wines, have been in the habit of taking beer or spirits "for their stomach's sake." Take an average of the revenue for, say, the last ten years derived from beer and spirits, allowing for the yearly increased consumption, and collect the total from the adult population through the householders. The Government wants revenue, a large proportion of the population want fair play, with good beer and genuine whisky at reasonable prices.—H. G. MIDDLETON, Preston Road, Leytonstone.

(*Years ago in the House of Commons we proposed a tax upon ginger beer, lemonade and other flatulent beverages, and to some extent our idea has been carried out. We are all for good wholesome British beer for workers.*—ED.)

Five Guineas will be paid each week to the writer of what we consider to be the most interesting letter.

Sharing Excess Profits.

The rank and file of all industries should stand in for a fair share of excess profits. This would be a solution to most of the labour trouble. Why not a law compelling the distribution of profits among the workers, after paying a fair dividend to shareholders?—JOHN MARTIN, Bovill Road, S.E.23.

(*In our speech on the Address we exposed the failure of the Excess Profits Tax—which is really a tax upon labour. It means that contracts are accepted at inflated prices, but so long as the Government gets a portion of the "swag" no questions are asked. The tax is also a handicap on enterprise.*—ED.)

"These Irish Uns."

Last Wednesday evening I went to pass the evening in the Phœnix Picture House, to see "Charlie" in "Shoulder Arms." In one part of the picture came the ex-Kaiser and Crown Prince inspecting German troops. When these two curs appeared there came a sudden applause from these Irish "Uns" of Hurrah! accompanied by whistling and stamping of feet. What a pity Ireland is not in the Pacific, and who could wish otherwise after twelve months in Dublin?—"TOMMY," Dublin.

(*The incident mentioned is an eloquent illustration of our utter failure to reconcile Ireland to British rule. Why not give our own plan a chance?*—ED.)

Sinking those Ships.

We are asked to believe that the statemen of the Peace Conference can settle all disputes, present and future. Yet these very men cannot agree as to the disposal of some hundred old iron carcasses of the German navy! Waste is always unscientific at the present moment surely it is criminal.—J. H. CLUTTON, Conques-sur-Orbiel, France.

(*It would certainly be criminal folly to sink the German ships. Our own view is that all the metal in them should be salvaged, and the rest should be utilised for bonfires on Peace Night.*—ED.)

What Baby Costs.

I have a baby, and find her food very dear. Since January 2nd it is costing me 9s. per week and not as much food. The price went up 1s. 6d. per tin, and smaller tins, since the war was over. I wrote to the firm, and the reply I got was, "It's controlled." As we are called upon to save the babies, I think babies' foods ought not to be near so expensive.—Mrs. McWALTER, Higher Green Astley, near Manchester.

(*We will consider the possibility of introducing a measure exempting infants' food from all taxation. Time enough to tax them when they grow up!*—ED.)

Endowment of Motherhood.

When this matter comes before the House I trust you and the other progressive Members of Parliament will see that the question of financial aid to widows—other than war-widows—left with young children is introduced into the Bill. Surely their case is very much harder, and the children equally deserving of help. War-widows get assistance, even if they have never had any life with the man they have married, and whose separation allowance they have had without any responsibility. If State aid is given to wives with husbands whose duty it is to provide for their own children—and I should think if everyone is to have such high wages even the working classes might manage it—surely, in the millennium which Lloyd George promised us, widows should be the first to be helped.—M. SAVILLE, Handsworth, Birmingham.

(*We are certainly all in favour of the endowment of widowhood where young children have to be provided for.*—ED.)

Commonsense War Memorials.

Every day considerable sums of money are subscribed for "war memorials," and, in most cases, the proceeds are spent in a piece of sculpture, or a bas-relief in a church. Why not spend the money sensibly? Let the trustees of these funds take a number of orphan children, whose fathers have died "out there," educate them and give them a start in life. Or help some of the soldiers, crippled through wounds but able to carry on in business with a little behind them. Anything rather than a bit of brass or stone that no one sees, or if he does, simply passes by.—DAVID BOWDEN, Highbury Park, London, N.5.

(*A very sensible suggestion. In our opinion all Memorial Funds ought to be merged into one huge project for the benefit of war sufferers.*—ED.)

Electoral Reforms.

I suggest that if, say, 50 per cent. of any electorate do not exercise the franchise, the election should be declared void, and I would apply this rule to all municipal and council elections. Recently there was a Surrey County Council election here and I believe a mere tithe of the electorate voted. Such apathy is a source of danger to the country. If one or two elections were nullified in the manner proposed, candidates and electors would soon wake up; more votes would be polled and better representation would be secured.—E. FRANK JUDD, Effra Road, Wimbledom, S.W.19.

(*Our friend is evidently in favour of the system prevailing in Belgium, and other countries, under which an elector is disfranchised if he cannot show good and sufficient reason for not recording his vote.*—ED.)

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

(*Registered under the Act of 1916 as The John Bull War Sufferers Fund.*")

This fund affords immediate relief to the dependents of soldiers and sailors stranded for want of money. Every farthing subscribed goes to some deserving person—we gladly defray all expenses.

A Particularly Sad case:—A soldier's father died on February 24th; four days afterwards his mother died. He had no money beyond his pay with which to defray the expenses of the burials.

Poor Old Boy!:—An old man is the father of a soldier who is on Service and was his only support. The poor old chap has now only 5s. a week outdoor relief, in addition to the meagre separation allowance.

On the Scrap Heap:—Several soldiers suffering from epilepsy cannot find employment owing to their infirmity. They are given small pensions instead of total disablement allowance—but were quite unable to carry on in view of the present abnormal cost of living.

A New Start:—A soldier's widow was under the doctor and in arrears with her rent. We gave assistance in these matters and helped to purchase stock so that she might start out as a hawker, which was her wish.

Like Father, Like Son:—After three years' active service, a consumptive ex-soldier finds himself unable to work much. Up to the present he has received no pension. His only child has died from the same disease, and the father's grief was added to by the fact that he had no money with which to bury the little one.

Another Derelict:—An ex-soldier had worked in civil employment for four months when he was discharged. He suffers with heart trouble; his wife is delicate, and at present not working at all; the rent had not been paid for weeks, and there was very little food in the house when his case was brought before us.

Illness and Death:—A soldier, home on special leave, found his wife very ill from pneumonia, and one of his children dead. There was a doctor's long bill awaiting payment, and the burial of the child could not take place without assistance, the soldier not being in credit with his regiment.

Cases in Short:—

Soldier's widow, herself and little son ill.

A man discharged without pension, victim of influenza and double pneumonia.

A soldier's wife who lost her son and was uninsured.

Wife of a soldier. Doctor issued summons for payment of an old account which she was unable to meet.

Discharged soldier, wife and four children down with influenza. Many other dependants of our fighting men victims of the present scourge.

Old age pensioner, ex-Service man, invalided. Cannot pay for nourishment. No relative or friend to help him.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

WHAT HAVE *YOU* GIVEN?

URGENT.—*We regret to notice the falling off in subscriptions to our fund. The prevailing plague has placed a constantly increasing burden upon it. One day last week, within two hours, as many as six applications were made to us for help to bury the dead. We accept the smallest mite and would remind our readers that he gives twice who gives quickly.*

"Trawler," 10s.; L. M. H. (Kingsbridge), 5s.; H. L. (Darlington), 1s.; J. G. (Oswestry), 1s.; Gunner S. (Ripon), 1s.; R. F. F. (Lee), 1s.; A. C., 1s.; W. M. (Preston), 1s.; P. M. (Dublin), 1s.; M. F. (Perth), 1s. 6d.; Mrs. T., 1s.; Lower Deck Ratings, H.M.T. *Fuji* 2661, £2 10s.; Mrs. M. L., 1s.; Mrs. C. P. (Herne Hill), 1s. 6d.; G. F. P., 2s. 6d.; E. S., 1s. 6d.; S. L. (Oulton), 2s.; Mrs. A. M. D., 6d.; G. H. P. B. (Brighton), 9d.; C. C. (Ipswich), 1s.; "S. Ealing Reader," 1s.; M. B. (Glasgow), 10s.; "One who has Suffered," 2s. 6d.; Pte. H. A. (Greenock), 1s. 9d.; W. A. H., 1s.; J. P. (Whetstone), 1s.; W. T. W. A., 12s.; "Avenue" (St. Albans), 2s. 6d.; C. S. (Chiswick), 2s. 6d.; R. U. (W. Kensington Park), £1; "A Mother," 1s.; Mrs. F. B. (Walton), 2s.; A. B., 5s.; Mrs. S. A. C. (Grimsby), 2s.; "In Memory of Bruce," 2s. 6d.; M. M. (Bedford), 1s. 6d.; "Miss Mystery" (Wakefield), 6d.; J. S. (Hasksyne), 3s.; T. E. M. (Glasgow), 1s. 6d.; W. C. (Somerset), 1s; "A Scot," 5s.; "A Constant Reader," 1s.; E. E. B. (Long Itchington), 2s.; Mrs. A. B. (Acton), 2s. 6d.; Anon., 6d.; A. D. (Paisley), 1s.; "A Sincere Reader" (Midlothian), 2s. 6d.; D. K. (Fulham), 5s.; C. B. (Stamford), 2s. 6d.; C. H. B. (Oatar.o), 2s. 1d.; "Jerry," 5s.; Mrs. J., 1s.; "Boys of the 15th Res. Battery," 1s.; "A Broken-hearted Mother," 1s.; A. C. G. (Nottingham), 1s.; "A Soldier's Wife" (Widnes), 1s. G. G. (Paddington), 1s.; J. A. M. F. (Swanage), 2s.; "Tommy's Wife" (Southampton), 1s.; "Monty," 2s. 6d.; "Anti-German Everything," 10s.; H. A., 2s. 6d.; Ship's Company, Canteen Fund H.M.S. *Ruby* (per H. M. H.), £6 5s.; F. C. J. (Bedford), 2s. 6d.; "Grateful" (Henley), 2s.

(*Owing to pressure upon space, it is impossible to acknowledge in the columns of the paper contributions made by means of our Collecting Boxes. The holders of such boxes are, however, given official printed receipts.*)

Good Chewing Gum
Why it is a favourite Sweet

The Hall-mark of Pure Chewing Gum

MORE people buy Adams & Beemans pure Chewing Gum than any other sweetmeat.

See this mark on box and packet

Good Chewing Gum has come to the front because of all sweetmeats it has the most to recommend it. One had almost said it had come *from* the Front as thousands and thousands of our soldiers enjoyed *millions* of packets of it and grew to value its worth. Set out here are a number of the benefits to be derived from good Chewing Gum. Do you know of any other sweetmeat that has such high qualities?

TEETH

Good Chewing Gum preserves the teeth. It keeps them clean and free from tartar which is the chief cause of decay. Clean teeth make for good health, therefore Chewing Gum is good for the health.

AFTER SMOKING

Good Chewing Gum takes away the acrid taste in the mouth and removes nicotine stain from the teeth. It also moistens the throat which becomes dry with continuous smoking.

IN THE FACTORY

"No Smoking" is an irksome order to many men, but good Chewing Gum relieves the craving and very soon gives a satisfaction all its own. Millions of people daily take a packet of Adams & Beemans pure Chewing Gum to work.

CONCENTRATION

The man who concentrates his mind on his work is sure to succeed. Chewing Gum is one of the best aids to concentration, because it takes the mind off the petty distractions which cause thought to stray. You can prove this.

QUENCHES THIRST

That good Chewing Gum quenches thirst and keeps the mouth moist and sweet was one of the great "discoveries" of the war. Good Chewing Gum is a wonderful help to anyone doing hard work or working in hot places.

SOOTHES NERVES

The nervous strain on our fighting airmen was of the severest kind. They found good Chewing Gum had a distinctly soothing effect and very many never went up without it. Worried or high strung people are recommended to use good Chewing Gum.

DIGESTION

Good Chewing Gum mildly exercises the salivary glands and this promotes good digestion. A habit which is proved to bring good results is to chew Adams & Beemans Pepsin Gum at least 30 minutes in the day and finish off with a glass of cold water.

CHILDREN

don't think about the benefits of a sweet. The flavour and delight of it are all that matter to them. Good Chewing Gum is a firm favourite on this account. Mothers recognize, however, that Chewing Gum is good for their teeth and in many other ways beneficial.

A favourite flavour—SPEARMINT

SPEARMINT

is an old world flavour and one of the "cleanest" and most agreeable known. It is delightfully and delicately rendered in Adams Spearmint Chewing Gum.

HOW TO KNOW GOOD CHEWING GUM

Good Chewing Gum is known by the "A-Chicle-A" brand on every box, every packet and every stick. The Gum is known as "A-Chicle-A"—the finest in the world—and is pure as distilled water. There are many varieties of flavour—Spearmint, Licorice, Sen-Sen, Peppermint, etc.,—and whichever you prefer, ask for Adams & Beemans, and see that the "A-Chicle-A" brand is on the wrapper.

ADAMS
PURE CHEWING GUM

All sweet-shops and chemists keep Adams & Beemans Pure Chewing Gum in a variety of flavours, also "CHICLETS" the famous candy-coated gum.

Adams Black Jack
Adams Chiclets
Adams Pepsin
Adams Spearmint

Adams California Fruit
Adams Yucatan
Adams Sen-Sen
Beemans Pepsin

Adams & Beemans Ltd., 56 Newcomen Street, Southwark, S.E.

2½d. per packet

THE original FREE Fire Insurance offer—see page 16.

"TOMMY AND JACK."

Dealing also with the Discharged Sailor and Soldier and their Dependents.

OUR PLEDGE.—"No case of hardship or injustice, no instance of beggarly treatment or mean cheeseparing, shall go unchallenged and unremedied."—*Horatio Bottomley*, 19th August, 1916.

"TOMMY."

A Damned Shame:—Four men of the "A" Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery in France were the other day court-martialled and sentenced to one year's imprisonment with hard labour, their crime being a disinclination to listen to a lecture in their own time on the thrilling subject of "France Before the War," which was delivered by a colonel of the brigade. This is eminently a case for the G.O.C. in C.

Pious Profiteers:—The Y.M.C.A. people in Paris are out to make a bit. They take parties of Tommies sight-seeing and charge them 10 francs for a railway journey and luncheon. The railway journey costs them 75 centimes per man, and the lunch is worth 1½ francs. Recently the sight-seeing party included 150 men. Who collars the swag?

The Baited Hook:—In France 1914-15 men who wish to come on leave to the United Kingdom are asked to sign a paper to the following effect:—"Willing to remain in H.M. Service until General Demobilisation, and on this understanding I have accepted 14 days leave to United Kingdom." This is not the way to treat men who are already entitled to their discharge.

Where the Money Goes:—Here is a Part II Order at Cherryhinton and Barnwell Hospital—"Court of Inquiry:—A Court of Inquiry will assemble at Cherryhinton Military Hospital, to inquire into the circumstances under which an earthenware washing basin was broken. All witnesses will be duly warned to attend." Possibly, it cost about £10 of public money to discover who broke the basin, worth a few shillings, and who should pay for it. Isn't it sheer foolery?

"JACK."

Stump Up:—The crew of the R.F.A. *Steady* at Portsmouth, want to know when they will receive their salvage money, also wages for overtime. They have been anxiously expecting the amounts for about two years.

Waiting:—The writers' and victuallers' assistants at R.N. Barracks at Portsmouth complain of the demobilisation system. They cannot be found jobs to carry on with, and yet are told that they must remain, as they are "indispensable."

From Chatham:—Like their brothers at Portsmouth, the writers in the R.N. Barracks, Chatham, have *their* grievances, and ask us to request the C.O. to look into them; which we readily do.

Jack's Grouse:—The crew of H.M.S. *Cheltenham* and other boats at Zeebrugge tell us that the reliefs sent out to enable them to obtain leave are used for other purposes—which is quite unfair.

Trouble on the Deep:—There was a shindy on H.M.S. *Merlin* the other day, at Ismalia, the stokers kicking against irregularities in pay matters, and the fact that they have been, as they say, improperly done out of release from the Service. As a result of the mutiny, the black gang have been sent to gaol for 90 days. We never could make out why the sailors are not paid regularly.

A Hint:—The motor launches are being brought to Southampton to lie up for sale. We do trust that the Admiralty really intend to discharge the crews, including the engineers. There are so many millions thrown away in these officially irresponsible times!

"THE SILVER BADGERS."

Secretaries of discharged Sailors' and Soldiers' organisations, in sending cases of injustice or other information, should mark their envelopes "Silver Badgers."

The Civvy Suit:—We are snowed under with letters from Badgers complaining that they cannot obtain their civilian suits within the period laid down. The reason is simple—owing to the scarcity of cloth. One office out of the many is at present demobilising 7,000 men a week. For the present, the discharged man must carry on in khaki.

Making Trouble:—When the drums beat to battle over four years ago, enthusiastic employers begged their men to shoulder the rifle; patted them on the backs and said, "Go boys, and good luck to you; we will look after your families, and when you return home you will have your jobs open for you." How many promises of the kind were published in the papers, and possibly got good marks for the employers! Now that the boys are coming back, we find that many are being refused their old jobs and are left to starve or to live on their miserable pensions. The Conchies and the Conscripts are often welcomed back to their work, whilst splendid volunteers are turned down.

What It Has Come To:—Messrs. McVitie and Price, Ltd., Biscuit Makers, of Willesden, were applied to for reinstatement by one of their men who had served. This he had been definitely promised. The answer was to the effect that the firm trained and employed girls, a large number of whom are to be retained, and that only male clerks who were with the firm for "a considerable term of years previous to the war" are to be re-engaged. The management cordially hopes that the present applicant will find an opening in some other direction. The concern boasts a "Special Appointment to H.M. Queen Alexandra," whose sympathetic eye, we hope, will scan this paragraph. Firms holding Royal warrants should do their best to deserve them, by being above all suspicion of unpatriotism.

RACING NOTES AND ANTICIPATIONS.

By "THE SQUIRE."

SELECTIONS FROM GATWICK AND LINGFIELD.

Except for the victory of Ally Sloper at Wolverhampton—which has again called attention to the old warrior's prospects for the Grand National—nothing of much moment has occurred during the week, except perhaps the running of Swinerton, which points to King's Coat being perhaps the best young hurdler we have so far seen out this season.

We must now turn to Gatwick, where the Hurst Park meeting is to be held—as Haydock Park and Warwick will have been disposed of before this issue is published. Several of the horses engaged are also in the three races at Lingfield for which the weights have appeared, and there are some remarkable differences in the allotments. My own view is that Mr. Rowleigh, the Lingfield handicapper, is much nearer the mark in his estimates of the capacity of the various contestants than is Mr. W. F. Lee, who is charged with the Hurst Park handicapping. However, taking the weights as they appear, I will proceed to indicate the probable winners. I shall assume that Minstrel Park, after being recently bought in for £300, will not be seen in selling plates again for some time, although he is in at least two events which he should win. I shall also take it for granted that Porthlyn will not shoulder 13 stone 8 in the March Handicap Steeplechase—which is not a racing weight at all—and he will probably be reserved for the Trial Double Handicap Steeplechase (First-class), where no doubt Waterbed will oppose him, in preference to carrying 12 stone 10 at Lingfield. After these preliminary observations, I proceed to give my selections:—

GATWICK (Hurst Park).

Thursday.

Welsey Steeplechase, Memento.
Riverside Hurdle Race, Carol Singer.
Trial Double H'cap Steeplechase, Strong Boy.
Hurst Park Hurdle Race, Harry Crag.
March Steeplechase, Macmerry.
Wimbledon Hurdle Race, King's Coat.

Friday.

Priory Steeplechase, The Last.
Ferry Hurdle Race, Royal Signet.
Trial Double Steeplechase, Porthlyn.
Grange Hurdle Race, Golden Daisy.
Novices' Steeplechase, Seneschal.
Surrey Four-year Hurdle Race, Longerline.

LINGFIELD.

Tuesday, March 18.

Sevenoaks Steeplechase, Bell Toll.
Crowhurst Hurdle Race, Longerline.

Wednesday, March 19.

Penshurst Hurdle Handicap, Corydon.

GIVEN AWAY
FREE COUPON PATTERN of CHILD'S DRESSING GOWN
For full particulars and instructions how to make, see this week's issue of
EVERYWOMAN'S 1d. Weekly BRIGHT, CHATTY & HELPFUL

PRINTER'S PIE.

(Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of every item published under this heading. Envelopes must be marked "Pie.")

"Daily News":—
"Following is the Food Time Table up to March 24: Feb. 27.—Cartridges: Removal of restrictions."

"Harrow Observer" (advertisement):—
"City gent. . . . requires small unfurnished house . . . undesirable refs."

"Evening North Wilts Herald" (Swindon):—
"Where dahlias, sweet-peas, and other animals are to be planted, the ground should be manured."

"Manresa Hall Monthly Messenger":—
"It was a lovely night; the sun was shining brightly on the old church."

"Daily Sketch":—
"When is the State going to help mothers with large families? If the cost of living has increased 100 per cent., then for eight persons the increase is 800 per cent."

"Cambridge Daily News":—
"The Princess . . . drove with her father in a closed carriage drawn by four postillions."

Author of "The Sun Dance Trail":—
"He had only a single word to say, a short sharp word it was—'who will join me'?"

"Sunday Circle":—
"Mrs. Wynn had watched as in a dream the one-armed man's big hands creeping along the panels of the wall."

"Evening Examiner" (Peterborough, Ontario):—
"To-night's programme is unusually good. Do not fail to miss it."

COMPANY MEETING.

HARRODS STORES.

Sir Alfred J. Newton, Bart., presided on March 6th at the meeting of Harrod's Stores, Ltd.

Their balance sheet this year revealed a position even more satisfactory than last year. The net profit was £352,041—an increase of £69,748, and the largest amount of net profit they had earned in any one year. The total turnover was the largest in the history of the company, and the increase in trade also created a record.

The chairman called attention to the increase of £64,000 in the item of salaries, wages, commissions, bonuses and maintenance of staff. They believed in paying their staff well, and in making every reasonable provision for their comfort. Their stocks had grown by £262,334 to the record figure of £1,068,102.

The report was adopted.

VICTORIA

'BEST-FEED' CAMPAIGN

FOR POULTRY AND DOGS

THE worry of what to feed to your Poultry or Dogs is over. Start now with pre-war Victoria foods and note the rapid improvement in health and stamina.

VICTORIA CHICKEN MEAL.

This pure and easily digested biscuit and meat meal has reared millions of chicks successfully with the lowest possible percentage of loss. It is the most commonsense method.

VICTORIA POULTRY FOOD.

The famous food which, before the war, got the extra egg or two which made the difference between you keeping the poultry and the poultry keeping you.

VICTORIA DRY CHICK FOOD.

For 'dry-feed' enthusiasts. A pre-war mixture of clean, *quality* seeds and a scientific preparation of insect life.

VICTORIA DOG BISCUITS.

Your dog will relish the return of these famous biscuits of pre-war quality: give him some and see for yourself. Every particle absolutely pure and highly nourishing.

"OSOKO." The paramount dog food.

Give it to your dog and see how he notices the beautiful white colour—just as you have noticed the change in *your* bread. "Osoko" is relished by all dogs, whether served dry or moistened with hot water or gravy.

"SIPPETS."

The nicest little biscuits for small or pet dogs.

All good dealers can supply you.

All your queries answered by our Information Bureau. Send for a Practical Test Sample, giving your own *and your dealer's* name and address.

SPILLERS & BAKERS, Ltd.,
339 BUTE ST., CARDIFF.

ASTOUNDING

RAINCOAT BARGAINS

Beautifully tailored and finished garments for only

29/6

DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURERS.

Get your Coat NOW, before our present stocks run out. This offer cannot be repeated. You cannot get a better Raincoat from any retailer if you pay double the price.

Made in Gabardine Cloth, in various shades, fully check lined, with belts and buckles.

Orders dealt with in strict rotation. Approval willingly. Thousands of testimonials.

LADIES', MAIDS' & YOUTHS' also stocked.

Write to-day for Free Patterns and Booklet.

SARTOR MANUFACTURING CO.
(Dept. J) 53, Oxford Rd., MANCHESTER.

Genuine American Applewood Pipes.

SWEETER THAN BRIAR.

Send 1/- Postal Order for Four Assorted Samples.

Money returned willingly if not satisfied.

M. L. GORDON, Ltd.,
13, Market Place, HULL.

Cailler's

COCOA

The Cocoa with the *Chocolate* Flavour

A NEW DISH FOR BREAKFAST.

Now that eggs are so dear, try delicious "Jack Tar" Pilchards for breakfast. They are very nourishing and give you a good start for the day. The natural oil of the fish supplements the scarce butter ration, and feeds the nerves. The patent non-soldered tins retain the delicious flavour of the fish and the tomato sauce.

Sold in small and large round and oval cans.

Guaranteed by Angus Watson & Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

'JACK TAR' PILCHARDS

A PAIR OF KID GLOVES FREE.—Send us the name of a grocer who does NOT stock "Jack Tar" Pilchards. We will send post free to the *first six applicants whose letters are opened* each morning from the 1st February to the 30th April a pair of ladies' kid gloves to the value of 5/6 (state size and colour when writing). Angus Watson & Co. Dept. 19 Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WITHOUT HEALTH

life is shorn of most of its pleasures. Good health, however, may be preserved, and impaired health restored with the aid of 'BYNOGEN.'

The most agreeable flavour and digestive qualities of 'BYNOGEN' are derived from a malt and wheaten extract which it contains in addition to milk protein and organic phosphates.

'Bynogen' Trade Mark
Brings Health

Sold by all Chemists at 1/9, 3/-, 5/- and 9/-

Allen & Hanburys Ltd., London.

NO MORE STRIKES!

CO-OPERATION THE SOLUTION.

"There is no finer antidote for strikes," said Mr. G. Havinden, Director of The Watford Manufacturing Co., Ltd., "than to realise the dignity of labour for its own sake apart from gain. We treat our workers as we expect them to treat us—in a word, they work not *for* the firm but *with* the firm, which makes all the difference."

No wonder, then, that the Delectaland Food Products manufactured by this firm at Watford are so good, for where everyone does his or her level best only the best can result. Among the Delecta specialities are Freeman's Custard, Freeman's Blanc-Mange, Baking Powder, Turtleken, Vi-Cocoa, Delecta Chocolate, and a host of other dainties which brighten our wartime means and provide nourishment at the same time.

Just how these happy people work and play is told in the *Delecta Magazine*, a charmingly illustrated monthly, which will be sent on receipt of a postcard addressed to the Editor.—(ADVT.)

HEADACHE & NEURALGIA

Daisy Cures the Worst Attack in from 3 to 5 minutes.

DAISY

A 6d. HEADACHE CURE for 2d.

No expense has been spared to make Daisy the safest and most certain of head and nerve cures—so expensive are its ingredients that it costs us FIVE TIMES as much to make as would the ordinary 1d. or 2d. powders. Daisy quality, safety and effect cannot be bought for less than Daisy price.

Sample Daisy, 2d.; 8 for 1/-, 20 for 2/3.

DAISY, LTD., LEEDS.

SMEDLEY'S PASTE

INSTANT RELIEF IN

RHEUMATISM

SORE THROAT · LUMBAGO
CHILBLAINS · STIFFNESS

Of all Chemists, 1/3 & 3/- a JAR, or from HIRST, BROOKE & HIRST Ltd. LEEDS

Stains? Forget them!

Stained linen can easily be restored to snow-white purity. Apply a touch of Movol to the stain, and in a few minutes the stain disappears before your eyes.

MOVOL

STAIN REMOVER

Removes Ironmould, Rust, Fruit and Ink Stains from Clothing, Marble, &c.

The directions given with each tube must be carefully followed.

From Chemists, Grocers, Stores, etc., in 1/- and 6d. tubes. If unable to obtain, send 1/2 for large trial tube, to

W. EDGE & SONS, Ltd.
Bolton.

BEACON OILSKINS

will keep you dry always. Men's Coats from 28/-, Ladies' from 22/6 (Children's from 10/6 (2 year-old size). Adults' Sou'-western 2/-. Long Leggings, 2/- —all guaranteed against stickiness, leakage or dissatisfaction on money-back methods.

ILLUSTRATED LIST POST FREE

Send Post card now for this Art Booklet of "Weather Comfort" to BARBOURS, Ltd., 67, Beacon Buildings, SOUTH SHIELDS, England.

YOUR home is liable to destruction by Fire—seize opportunity offered on page 16.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and chats with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only should be forwarded in the first instance.*

LETTERS *must be addressed to the Editor or Publishers, 93, Long Acre, W.C.2, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters.* FINANCIAL, INSURANCE, *or* LEGAL *enquiries should be addressed to the Financial, Insurance, or Legal Editor, and must each be accompanied by a postal order for one shilling. No fee is charged in respect of other enquiries. Full names and addresses should be given.*

T. W. W. (Preston).—How ever did you find out that our secret ambition is to become P.M.? H ven't you muddled the letters?

J. S. (Newquay).—Quite right—our attitude towards Germany has been consistent ever since we sat up and began to take notice.

"Ro" (Edinburgh).—If, as you suggest, we were to "just tap the Prime Minister on the shoulder" in the House of Commons, we might find ourselves tapped in return by the Serjeant-at-Arms.

F. H. (J'burg).—Like you, we are out for the Kaiser's hide. But in a sense it doesn't much matter what happens to him at the moment. He's heading straight for Hell, any way.

"A FRENCHMAN" (Barnes).—"I do very much admire your roaring about the Peace Conference, so at home we call you "The British Tiger." We purr our acknowledgments.

E. W. (Leeds).—"Have read your speech in the House of Commons. Very good." That is real nice of you.

"FOWKE" (no address).—We note that you "take our paper for a purpose." Let's hope it's a respectable one.

"FORESIGHT."—Don't let your "grievances" attract you to Bolshevism. That way lies unspeakable disaster.

A. H W. (Shortlands).—Thanks, but you must not speak of our efforts as "superhuman." Our life's ambition has been simply to play the man.

XAVIER (Croydon).—Children and fools should be quiet.

"GAMMY LEG" (Prestwich).—No need to worry over America's financial position. Trust Uncle Sam!

W. M. B. (Elgin).—"We like your style—please keep it up now you are a Member of Parliament." Rather, only more so. Have you seen our new standard suit?

"BRITON."—"Are we now about to see Britannia weighed in the balance and found wanting?" Evidently you've never seen Britannia's photo. She's some weight, she is.

"HOUSES" (L.B.C.).—Be assured that any house-rent proposals coming before the Commons will be examined by us in the white light of justice.

J. H. R. (Clacton).—We quite agree that Registration Agents should have free inspection of Alien Registers, in order to see that those who are on them are kept off the Parliamentary Lists.

"ONE OF THE BOYS."—Pardon us, but we have *not* the "honour" of belonging to "the Government." Nothing has yet tempted us to sacrifice our independence of Party ties.

"POOR OLE BILL" (Birmingham).—Just as well you are not "working a beat in South Hackney," which is such a law-abiding place that the police are absolutely bored stiff.

MISS E. P. C. (Fulham).—It is unthinkable that New Zealand troops in the Army of Occupation should desire, let alone be permitted, to marry German women and take them home to soil their nice clean colony.

B. B.—Did you write your letter with the frayed end of a bit of piano wire, or what? There may be sense in what you write, but there is no sense in writing sense that cannot be read.

"A READER OF J.B."—Suppose you mean well in sending newspaper cutting of 1847, but do desist. A cutting from one of next year's papers would be far more welcome.

CAPT. S. (Clapham Junction).—"Please inform me of the largest aerial bomb ever made, also if a flight has been made from British Isles by air." We are wondering how else a flight would be made, unless by wings. As to the biggest bomb, the pieces found do not indicate its measurements.

J. R. I. (S. Hackney) is also after "one of the old motor cycles used by dispatch riders." He should address "The Minister for Demobilised Ironmongery, Whitehall."

MRS. E. D. (Halifax).—No time to write our life at present. Too busy living it.

"PRECAUTION" (Sea Houses).—"Now is the time to put your house in order and get rid of the German scum." Past time by half a century.

PTE. J. A. P., M.M. (near Mons).—"In my opinion, no other Briton enjoys your measure of the Army's confidence." Sorry we can't blush as often as we used to.

"BERT" (Bradford).—"I have just read your JOHN BULL." You have performed a wise and beautiful act.

"RETURNED SOLDIER."—"Saucy" is hardly the epithet we should apply to Mr. Bonar Law, but perhaps you have met him at an afternoon tea party.

J. H. (Hammersmith).—Glad to hear you are willing to help the Government. If you get a wire from Downing Street, you'll know we have mentioned it.

L. C. T. (Hull).—Quite a promising sketch for a 12-year-old boy! Hope mother wasn't cross with you for using so much ink.

"THRICE WOUNDED."—Sorry, old son, but five foolscap pages, in green ink, have got us floored. Can't you boil it down, telegram size, in black ink?

G. S. (Maidenhead).—Seems absurd to refuse to licence your cycle repair business because there are "enough" such shops. That is your risk, and why you should be stopped goodness only knows.

"READER" (Widnes).—"Petty spite on the part of a half-inch landlord." You seem to have got his measure.

"THE CLEANERS" (Cavalry Hosp., Newport).—Everybody seems to want a bonus, and, as nearly everybody seems to get one, we see no reason why you should not participate. Some day we may even get one ourselves.

E. T. M. (R.A.S.C.) tells us that this journal is now being sold in Cologne—by discharged German soldiers! Perhaps Mr. Wilson is insisting upon this being done as one of the Terms of Peace!

J. J. (Merthyr Vale).—We should not be so rude as to describe your handwriting as "scribble scrabble," to repeat the impertinent criticism of the Secretary of your local War Pensions Committee, yet we have seen better. Let us know how the poor woman gets on, and, if necessary, we will take a hand.

"SERGT. S. F." (Plumstead).—"We don't want any more of his Yankee bluff and rotten bacon." Certainly your affection for President Wilson is not what one might call deep.

MRS. S. (Walthamstow).—You are one of many complaining of delay by Clark's Dress Stand people. After mentioning JOHN BULL you got your stand, but the armlets thereof are still like the old cow's tail.

"FELLOW CITIZEN" ("Poor Old Ireland.")—"I wrote you on the unnatural evil of tobacco smoking." Very likely; but we don't want to puff people like you.

"POULTRY" (Wickford).—Our view is that one egg is a fair day's work for one hen; if it's a good egg, that is.

"HAIRPINS" (London, N.).—You convince us that Pope didn't know what he was talking about in saying the proper study of mankind is man. It isn't. It's woman.

"CAMPHOR AND WATER" (London, W.).—Thanks for postcard. Does it come on suddenly, or do you get preliminary warnings?

W. S. (Hugglescots).—The statistics prove that doctors are not immune, but it is quite true they don't catch epidemic diseases as commonly as other people. Perhaps they take their own advice.

"ZOROASTER."—Thanks for the £2, which we have had much pleasure in dividing between the three persons in whose cases you were interested.

MISS S. (Bournemouth).—"What can you do, dear wise man of England?" If you talk to us like that, we must try to manage a week-end at Bournemouth.

H. C. (Limehouse).—We note that you object to Labour delegates "with big fat cigars in their mouths." What would you say to a gold-mounted toothpick?

"FAITHFUL READER" (Bellahouston).—Thanks, but it's rather late to deal with people "dodging the Army." Evidently you meant to post your letter twelve months ago.

B. (Waddington).—If you know of cruelty to horses, it is your duty to write to the R.S.P.C.A. Meanwhile, do not repeat "rumour" that inspectors are bribed; it is wicked as well as silly.

E. E.—Railway gatemen, if working 12 hours a day, should inquire where the eight hours' award comes in.

W. H. (Middlesbro').—"Considering the thousands of unemployed women, do you not think something should be done whereby our match industry could be developed very largely?" Why not reduce the marriage fees?

PTE. T. O.—Seems you have been caught by the "free-watch-but-pay-like-blazes-for-the-chain" swindle. You should read us regularly and escape such traps.

R. D. L. (Catford).—It is our view that all pensions granted on a pre-war scale should be revised to meet present-day needs.

J. C. (Westmorland).—In the absence of a Local Fire Brigade or appliance, we would accept other available evidence of the *bona fides* of a claim under our Free Fire Insurance Scheme.

"EDDIE" (Faversham).—"Please tell me how to win the First Prize in 'Bullets.'" Certainly; send us the best "Bullet."

"SOLDIER'S WIFE" (Lyme Regis).—If the reopening of the Lyme Regis Cement Works would mean good employment for local men home from the war, the curmudgeons who oppose it for selfish reasons merit the contempt of all right-thinking people.

P. N. (Dublin).—"I know I am ignorant." Having read your letter, we cannot honestly disagree with you.

MRS. D. (Harehills).—Your "signal visions" will do you no good if you go on seeing them. See a doctor instead.

H. M. M. (Norge) would "like to write stories" about the late Queen Victoria. Sorry; but we don't publish stories. She should try an evening newspaper.

B. W. H. (Salonika).—We had no intention of reflecting on the men who are in the Labour Battalions for creditable reasons by our remarks on the "conchies" grouped up with them for—not creditable reasons.

MRS. W. K. (Swindon).—It may be as you suggest—that if there were more ladies there would be more servants.

T. N. (Weymouth).—"I went to the shops to-day to get Seville oranges." You might as well have stopped at home and played with the cat.

H. B. (Leeds).—We note that if Lloyd George will not do as you wish, he is to be "swept out on to the muck-heap." Sounds like a dirty finish.

R. O. (Gullane).—We have said what we think about the present position of Lord Hardinge.

"IRISH COLLEEN."—"I am a pretty Irish colleen, so the boys tell me." But they would be awfully jealous if they knew you had threatened to "fall on our neck."

"SNIGGS" (London, E.C.).—Certainly we *shall* find the Surgical Aid Society letters useful, as unfortunately particulars of many sad cases are constantly coming before us. Will other readers kindly note?

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)

MORE ABOUT

THE "JOHN BULL" PEN

ANOTHER TYPICAL LETTER.

111, Old Georges Street.
Cork.

Dear Sirs,

I beg to thank you for the splendid "John Bull" Pen. There is no better or more satisfactory pen to be had at any price. I am, and have been, using Fountain Pens for the last twenty years, and although I always tried to secure the best—cost what it may—I have more real satisfaction with your pen than any I ever came across before.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J. FITZGIBBON.

"JOHN BULL" Pen Coupon. Value 2d.

By sending this Coupon with P.O. for 3s. and 1½d. stamps for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a "John Bull" Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen, STANDARD MODEL. Additional Coupons up to 6 from "John Bull" from this date may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 2d. off the price. Thus, you may send 7 coupons, and P.O. for 2s. only, and 1½d. stamps for postage.

DE LUXE MODEL, 1s. Extra.

Address, Pen Dept., JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. (*March 15th, 1919.*)

P.O.'s should be made payable to John Bull, Ltd., and crossed & Co.

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

TO THE ARMY

BE PATIENT.

WHO ARE NOW BEING DEMOBILISED?

Men serving under pre-war conditions of service who have completed their term of Colour Service.

Men who joined the Colours before 1st January, 1916.

Men who are over 37 years of age.

Men who have more than two wound stripes.

BUT—

To carry on the work of (i.) dispersing the demobilisable Army and (ii.) maintaining the Armies of Occupation, some men, although in the above classes, must be retained.

These consist of a certain number of men of Special Services (on the Lines of Communication, at the bases and at home) such as the Royal Army Service Corps and Pay and Record Staffs, Railway troops, &c., who are included in the Armies of Occupation as **indispensable,** and will receive the new extra weekly bonus.

These indispensable men will not be retained a day longer than necessary. Their dispersal will begin as soon as substitutes can be found or they can be dispensed with.

FIRST OUT FIRST HOME

is one of the principles on which the Demobilisation plans are based—

But, to protect industry, whilst doing justice, the men who are to be demobilised first will be released, as now, in order of—

(a) Their importance to National industry.
(b) Their length of service.
(c) Their age.

Civil demobilisers, pivotal men duly certified by the Ministry of Labour (provided their names were received by the War Office before 1st February, 1919) and compassionate cases will still have prior claim.

The war-worn veterans of 1914-15 and the older men will be released as quickly as possible.

The men retained will obtain their compensation in the new extra weekly bonus.

WE MUST CARRY ON TILL THE GOODS ARE DELIVERED.

THE ARMIES OF OCCUPATION WILL CONSIST OF

Men serving under pre-war conditions of service who have not completed their term of Colour service.

Men who joined the Colours on or after 1st January, 1916,

EXCEPT

Those men who are over 37 years of age.

Those men who have more than two wound stripes.

THEIR GRADUAL REDUCTION.

If it is found that these men are more than the number required for the Armies of Occupation, some of them will be released as soon as possible in this order:—

(1) Men of 36; (2) Men of 35; (3) Men with two wound stripes, and then (4) Men of 34.

It will be possible to reduce the strength of the Armies of Occupation week by week until, by the time our peace terms have been secured, no man who is not serving of his own free-will will be left with the Colours.

VOLUNTEERING AND RE-ENLISTING.

A fit man still serving, uncertain of his position in civil life for the next few years, should volunteer now for the Armies of Occupation or re-enlist before the 15th March, 1919, while the present scheme is open.

The new scale of pay is good. Men serving who volunteer for the Armies of Occupation and are accepted receive the new extra weekly bonus.

Men who re-enlist for 2, 3 or 4 years will receive, by yearly instalments, bounties of £20, £40 and £50 respectively in addition to the new extra weekly bonus which will be drawn during service in the Armies of Occupation at Home or Abroad.

ANY SOLDIER WANTING FURTHER DETAILS SHOULD ASK HIS COMMANDING OFFICER.

Patience, co-operation, and an intelligent appreciation of the Nation's needs will win us the peace.

Why pay Fire Insurance Premiums?—see page 16.

"BULLETS" BIG INCREASE

£250

2ND PRIZE £20

3RD PRIZE £10

1ST PRIZE

1ST PRIZE

10 PRIZES OF £5	10 PRIZES OF £2 10	25 PRIZES OF 10s.	200 PRIZES OF 5s.	1,000 PRIZES OF 2s. 6d.	3,000 "TARGET" PRIZES.

☛ Please Note that Next Week "Bullets" First Prize will be increased to £1,000.

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS."

First choose any of the Thirty examples given below. Then give **TWO, THREE** or **FOUR** words having some bearing on the examples chosen. Any **ONE** of the words selected must begin with **ANY** letter in the example chosen. The other words selected can begin with any letters in the alphabet. These examples will guide you:—Example:—Plain Speaking. Bullet:—Seldom By A Politician. Example:—Pulling Together. Bullet:—The Empire Needs. Competitors may send in two BULLETS for sixpence. If more coupons are used an entry fee at the rate of 6d. for each coupon must be sent. Result of this competition will be found in our issue dated April 5th.

LIST OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 324.

WINSTON CHURCHILL	HOME AGAIN	GERMAN DODGES	FOOLS ABOUT	ADAM'S ALE
A GOOD JOB	YOUNG MAN'S FANCY	WON'T WORK	BOYS AND GIRLS	SHOULD BE ADOPTED
ABOUT TIME	THE SOONER THE BETTER	WHITEWASH	MOST ABSURD	HANDS OFF
THE MIDDLE CLASSES	END OF CONTROL	TOMMY ROT	A GOOD BOOK	HUNG UP
PLAIN SPEAKING	MORE WHISKEY	MY WIFE DISLIKES	LUCKY DOG	PULLING TOGETHER
JUSTICE	HARD TO STOP	MAKING TOO FREE	IN LOW WATER	FATHER'S DELIGHT

No. ____ Closing Date, Thursday, March 20th.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(324) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

If 1 coupon is used P.O. for 6d. must be sent.

Signed _____

Address _____

☞ IF UNABLE TO SECURE EXTRA COUPONS YOU CAN WRITE YOUR "BULLETS" ON PLAIN PAPER.

No. ____ Closing Date, Thursday, March 20th.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(324) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

If 2 coupons are used P.O. for 1/- must be sent.

Signed _____

Address _____

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS" No 324. "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2

Write Competition in top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Selection of Examples for "Bullets" Competition No. 325.

MARY ANN—FIGHTING FOR EXISTENCE—DANGER TO STATE—SPOILING THE BABY—THE PRIME MINISTER—WHO'S BOSS?—NOT WANTED HERE—LIKE HIS DAD—SPRING CLEANING—STRIKE LEADERS—WHAT BOTTOMLEY PROMISES—ASKING TOO MUCH—A BIG NAVY—SHAKING HANDS—ARGUING WITH WIFE—A GOOD DAY'S WORK—THE KAISER'S HEAD—A WISE MAN—THE BEST WAY—UTTER RUBBISH.

These examples can be made use of on the coupons above, and must reach us on or before **THURSDAY, APRIL 3rd.** All coupons so used **MUST** be clearly marked with the number **325** in the top left-hand corner, and envelopes containing these coupons must be addressed "Bullets" **No. 325,** "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Such coupons must not contain any of the Thirty examples for competition 324.

BULLETS RULES.

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Judges, in consultation with the Editor, is the best "Bullet" received, and the other prizes in order of merit, the last being cleverness, aptness and originality. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.
3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to John Bull and crossed and Co Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner.
4. All coupons arriving too late to be judged with absolute thoroughness will be duly returned to their respective senders.
5. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.
6. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

Mr. H. A. Husband, 58, Felton Road, Horfield, Bristol:
Germany Must—Eat Words—Digest Facts.

Pte. B. L. Bosaquet, 9, Glo'ster Ave., Eastville, Bristol:
Breach Of Promise—Feeding Germany—Starving Servia.

Mr. T. G. Lawn, 33, Allen Road, Beckenham:
Road To Ruin—Channel Tunnel Wouldn't Be.

Mr. D. Mitchell, 51, Orchard Place, Southampton:
A Holy Terror—The Trinity Of Labour.

Result of 321st "Bullets" Competition.

FIRST PRIZE OF £500:

Mr. WILLIAM JAMES BOYCOTT, 12, St. Aubyn's Road, Lowestoft.

Example:—When Peace Is Signed.
Bullet:—Let's Hope We're "Alive."
(Sent in on a Free "Target" Prize Coupon)

SECOND PRIZE OF £50:

Mr. A. HUBBARD, Thorington, Colchester.

Example:—Breach Of Promise.
Bullet:—Cheaper Than Buying Furniture.

THIRD PRIZE OF £10:

Mr. WILLIAM DALRYMPLE, Dunblane, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow.

Example:—On Strike.
Bullet:—"Idle" Expecting Sympathy Then.

10 PRIZES OF £5 EACH:

Mr. W. E. Jones, 40, Shakespeare Avenue, Rock Ferry:
Master And Man—Repeatedly "Coming Before" Public.

Mr. W. C. Harris, 70, Hillside Road, Stamford Hill:
Waste Of Time—Then "Pushed" For It.

Mrs. E. Bass, 99, Langthorne Street, Fulham Palace Road, S.W.:
Master And Man—Getting Heated—We're Not

Mr. C. C. Smith, "The Coombs," Glorsop:
Germany Must—Lick Dust, Not Earth.

Mr. J. C. Griffiths, 15, Eastwell Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield:
Like A Man—"Striking" If She Is.

Sec.-Lt. F. A. Bird, R.A.F., 17, Framlington Place, Newcastle-on-Tyne:
Germany Must—Accept Terms Without "Consideration."

Mrs. E. Cooper, "Glenelg," Stanley Road, Ashford, Middlesex:
John Bull—Wilson Won't "Order."

Mr. A. W. Richardson, 155, High Street, Stony Stratford, Bucks:
Road To Ruin—Jellicoe Thought Copying Nelson.

Mr. A. Archer, 3, Lynnwood Terrace, Church Fields, Bromsgrove:
Labour Demands—Amounts To "Hands Off."

Miss H. Doudney, 18, Hosack Road, Balham:
Bottomley's Advice—"Terrible Time" Before Taken.

10 PRIZES OF £2 10s. EACH:

Mr. W. C. Waugh, 6, Fieldhead Street, Listerhills, Bradford:
A Tight Squeeze—Breathing Space Between Strikes.

Mr. O. Carey, 42, Medway Road, Gillingham, Kent:
Waste Of Time—Ordering Coal.

Mr. W. Haslam, 129, Whalley Range, Blackburn:
Breach Of Promise—Tommy, Fighting For Existence.
(Sent in on a Free "Target" Prize Coupon.)

Mr. F. C. Towne, 3, Richmond Road, Isleworth, W.:
A Tight Squeeze—Hidden Hand—Nation's Throat.

Miss E. Mitchell, 87, Clifton Road, Hastings:
Impossible—To Stop Asses Braying.
(Sent in on a Free "Target" Prize Coupon.)

Mr. E. Colville, Drawing Office, H.M. Dockyard, Devonport:
British Made—Profiteer "Sticks It On."

List of 10s. Prize-winners in "Bullets" Competition 321 will be published in next week's "Competitors' Journal." Complete list of all Cash and other Prize-winners can be seen at the offices of "John Bull."

JOHN BULL'S

GREAT FREE FIRE INSURANCE.

COVERING ALL RISKS BY FIRE TO HOME, LIFE AND LIMB.

UNDER this most unique FREE INSURANCE OFFER anyone above the age of 10 can be insured irrespective of sex.

The premiums charged by any Fire and Accident Insurance Company to secure similar benefits would certainly exceed 5s. per annum. We offer it to you absolutely free.

We have made our insurance as simple and comprehensive as possible, and shall not bother about any "Legal representative" or "next of kin." Claims will be paid to the registered reader, who must personally sign the coupon, or to the person nominated thereon, and to no one else.

A separate coupon must be filled up in respect to each person to be insured.

This offer applies only to persons residing in, and property situated in, England, Scotland, and Wales.

The full conditions governing this scheme will be published in the first issue of each month.

ORDER FORM

To be Retained by Newsagent.

To .....Newsagent.

.....

Please deliver JOHN BULL to me regularly until further notice

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

March 15, 1919.

You must also fill in the Registration Form, which will be found next to this, and post it to John Bull Insurance Dept., 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.2, where your name and the name of your nominee will be duly registered.

REGISTRATION FORM

Which must be posted to—
John Bull INSURANCE DEPT., Long Acre, W.C.2.

This is to notify that I have this day placed an order for the regular weekly supply of John Bull with

.....Newsagent, of

.....

and desire you to register me as a regular subscriber under the terms of your Insurance Scheme.

In the vent of my being injured or killed, or of my home or its contents being damaged, I hereby nominate to receive any payment due under this insurance, first myself, or in the event of my death:—

Name of Nominee.....

Address.....

Signature of Insured.....
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Address of home.....

March 15, 1919. .....

WHAT WE WILL PAY

For Damage to contents of Home by Fire up to ...	£200
In Case of Death directly due to Fire at Registered Reader's home	£200
For the Loss of Two Limbs or Both Eyes, or One Limb and One Eye ...	£200
For the Loss of One Limb or One Eye	£100
Medical Fees for Injuries not proving fatal but incapacitating the injured person from following his, or her, employment, up to ...	£10
In the event of a Temporary Total Disablement up to 13 weeks	£1 Per Week

To remain qualified for the benefits, readers must continue to have "John Bull" regularly supplied to them.

Enclose 1d. stamp if an acknowledgment of receipt of Registration Form is required.

For every boot and every shoe there is a Paton Lace. And by purchasing

PATON'S BOOT & SHOE LACES

you guard against the annoyance of continually breaking laces. Paton's laces are quality laces, made of hundreds of mercerised threads so as to give long service. They never become shabby as the dyes are fast so are the tags.

All British. Refuse inferior foreign made laces.

For Ladies' and Gents' wear. *Per pair.*
Boot Laces . . . . 3d. & 4d.
Shoe Laces (flat & tubular) 4d.
Leather Laces . . 6d. & 9d.

Your own dealer can supply you if you insist on Paton's.

Wm. Paton, Ld., Johnstone, Scotland.

P1

"De Reszke" AMERICAN CIGARETTES

Praise bestowed by *unbiased* judges is convincing The following opinions* of "De Reszke" *American* Cigarettes are those of well known people whose words must carry weight:—

Sir Squire Bancroft writes "The 'De Reszke' *American* Cigarettes are excellent."

Senator Marconi writes:— "Senator Marconi desires to thank you for the 'De Reszke' *American* Cigarettes, which he found quite excellent."

* *Other opinions in other "De Reszke" advertisements*

Sold at all Military Canteens at Home and Overseas, also Tobacconists and Stores.

WORRY AND INDIGESTION.

A great number of people are at the present time suffering from nervous indigestion. The cause is often easily traced to worry, overwork, lack of exercise, some nervous upset or a general run-down condition of the system. It is a disease of the nerves rather than of the digestive organs, and it should be corrected by building up the blood and so giving needed nourishment to the nervous system.

For this building-up process Dr. Williams' pink pills have proved most effective in numerous instances, as they are known to purify and enrich the blood. With this tonic treatment by Dr. Williams' pink pills there should be combined proper rest, some recreation and abstinence from tea, coffee and stimulants. As the nerves receive more nourishment through the blood, which is being enriched, so the symptoms of nervous dyspepsia become less distressing, and after a steady course of the pills health is restored. In cases where there is loss of weight, and pallor indicating weakness of the blood, Dr. Williams' pink pills are especially suitable.

Start now, for any dealer can supply you with Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people, but say that you want Dr. Williams', so as to avoid substitutes.

FREE.—Valuable hints on diet will be found in a little book "What to Eat." Send a postcard for a copy to Offer Dept., 46, Holborn Viaduct, London. [ADVT.

The Whole Family fed on Quaker Oats for cost of Feeding One Person on other Foods

The Ministry of Food states that:—

The nourishing value of food can be measured in "calories" just as surely as the weight can be measured in pounds.

The number of "calories" (or food units) in a pound of food tells us the amount of nourishment it contains.

The average person requires about 3,000 "calories" or food units per day.

Consider these comparisons of the cost of 1,000 Calories in Quaker Oats and other every-day foods.

In	Quaker Oats.....	about	3½d.
„	Bacon.....	„	1/0½
„	Ham	„	1/4½
„	Beef	„	2/0
„	Eggs	„	5/10½
„	Fish	„	7/3½

In these expensive days use Quaker Oats whenever you can. Every shilling's worth of Quaker Oats used in place of meat saves an average of 7/-, or in place of fish, 19/-.

Quaker Oats is delicious for many other dishes besides porridge. Follow the directions on the packet.

Quaker Oats

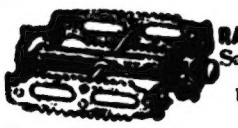
QUAKER OATS, LTD., FINSBURY SQUARE, E.C.2.

198

GAMAGES

1st GREAT "After-the-War" SALE.

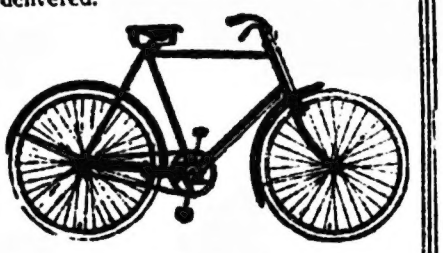
We cut our prices to the lowest possible to ensure a clearance, because we want the room for Peace Stock. The unprecedented success of this Sale proves once more the Public's quick recognition of unusual bargains.



Cy 7.
RAT TRAP PEDALS.
Sale price **3/11** per pair.
Usual price 4/3
Postage d.

Cy. 13.
Built-up Wheels.
28 x 1½in. and 26 x 1¾in.
Wired on only.
Sale Price **27/6** Pair.
Front only **14/-**
Back only **15/6**
Carriage extra.

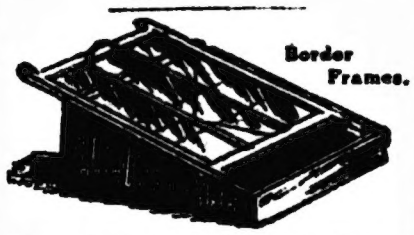
Although Bicycles are still coming through in very limited quantities we have decided to clear out the whole of our ast season's Machines to make room for the new models now gradually being delivered.



They consist of Men's 24-in. only, and are o our standard 1 18 Specification.
Price £8 8 0 Only while they last.
All 1919 Models will be priced **£10 .0 0.** *Carriage extra.*

CLEARANCE LINES FROM ALL DEPARTMENTS. WRITE FOR POST FREE SALE LIST.

Gardening Requisites at Sale Prices.



Border Frames.

Stock on hand at reduced prices to clear:—

Size	Sale Price.	Usual Price.
3ft. x 4ft.	42/-	54/-
6ft. x 4ft.	76/-	90/-
6ft. x 4ft. (Span Roof Plant Preserver)	86/-	99/6

Carriage Extra.

200 only, folding Park Chairs.
Second hand. As supplied to the London Parks.

Sale Price **7/6** each.
Usual Price **12/6** each.
Carriage extra.

HOLBORN, LONDON, E.C.1

I will teach YOU to play brilliantly without Drudgery or Fatigue

In a few months, and with less than half the usual practice, my modern, vivid, progress-compelling

Piano Correspondence Lessons

will give you such a grip of the Keyboard and ease in reading ordinary music, that you will play with spirit and feeling, Songs, Marches, Dances, Hymns, and many of the famous Classical Gems.

I guarantee success to any average person.

Adult Beginners need not know a note.

Send a card to-day for my illuminating little book

"MIND, MUSCLE & KEYBOARD"

It explains my System and shows what many hundreds, of all ages and stages, say it has done for their playing. **Judge for yourself what it can do for you.**

A Moderate Player (after one lesson):—"What a benefit I have derived from your first lesson! I thought I was, on the average age, a good player, but your teaching has shown me how little I really knew."—H. G. (Huddersfield).

A postcard with **full address** (Mrs., Miss or Mr.) and the word **Moderate, Elementary or Beginner**, will bring my book, with form for free advice and opinion by return

Mr. H. BECKER,
31, Bristol House,
Holborn Viaduct,
LONDON, E.C 1.

FREE TO YOU!

Send a postcard to H. SAMUEL **NOW** and receive his Free Book of Jewellery, Watches, and Plate, illustrating thousands of bargains offered at money-saving next to

FACTORY PRICES.

25/-

£5

£8

Beautifully cut Diamonds in hall-marked Gold. **25/-**

Write to-day!

See the Free Book for list of 77 branches.

H. SAMUEL 100 MARKET ST., Manchester.

H.SAMUEL LTD.

The "BLANCO" Tradition.

For more than a quarter of a century the old British Army "Blanco'd" itself clean and smart. This tradition, like the other worthy ones, holds true in the New Armies of to-day, and it holds because "Blanco" is still the most efficient article for its purpose.

In these Khaki-days

"BLANCO"

is made in 3 kinds:

"WEB-BLANCO"—a special preparation for cleaning all web-equipment.

"KHAKI-BLANCO"—for cleaning khaki-coloured Spats, Sun-helmets, Buckskin Belts, etc. May also be used for web-equipment.

"BLANCO" (*the original kind*) for cleaning all *White* equipment.

WAR OFFICE APPROVAL.

Sole Manufacturers: JOSEPH PICKERING and SONS, Ltd., Burton Road, SHEFFIELD.

Spinet

The SUPER

MIXTURE & CIGARETTES

1/11 for 2 oz. 20 for 1/4.

R. & J. HILL LTD. LONDON.

What About the Future?

The International Correspondence Schools have helped more men to successful futures than any other institution in the world. I.C.S. training is simple, quick, and certain. At little cost it comes to you wherever you are, at home or overseas, aboard ship, in hospital, or barracks, and follows you round wherever you go. Post the coupon NOW!

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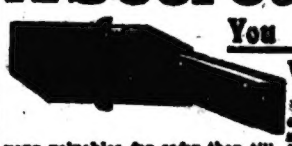

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